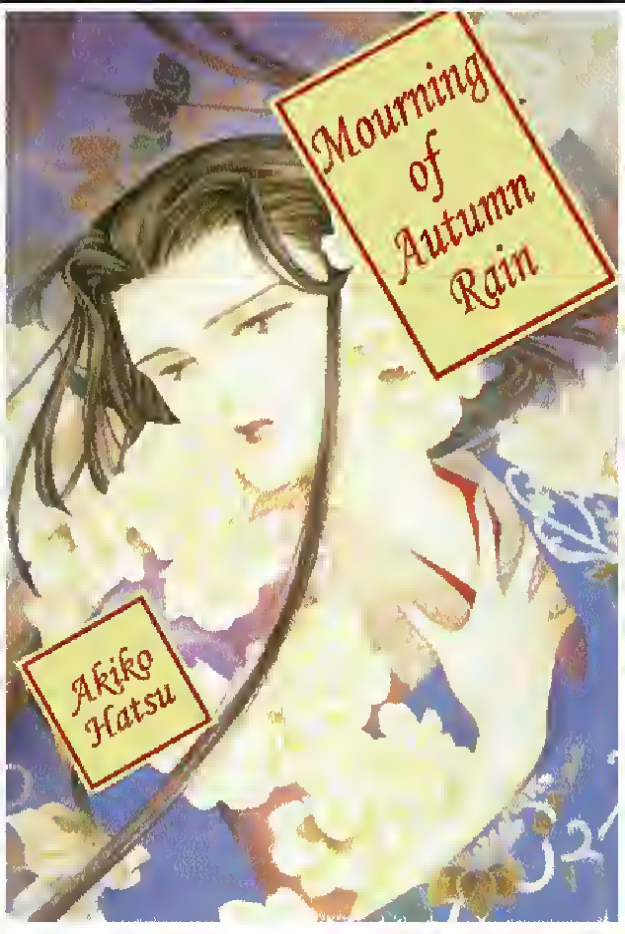
Mourning of
Autumn rain
by Akiko HATSU


Mourning of Autumn Rain
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Mourning of Autumn Rain

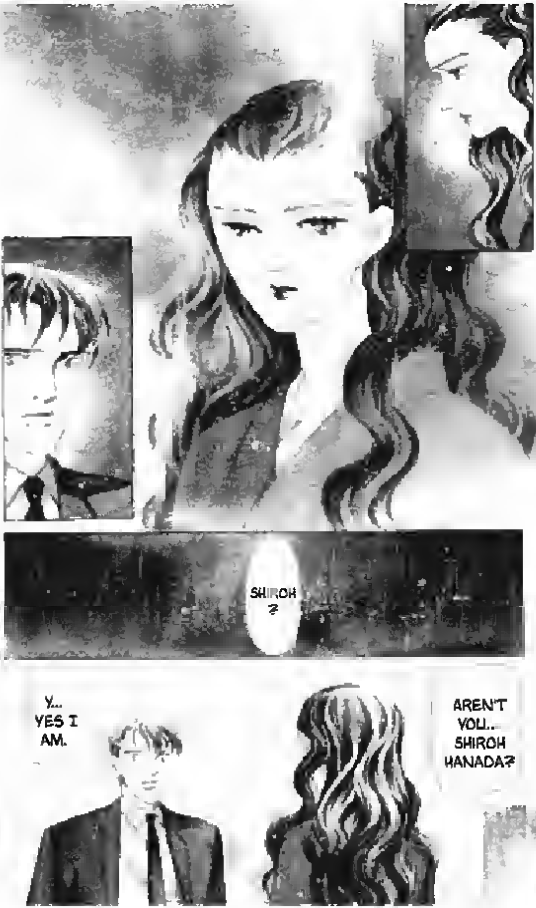
MOURNING OF AUTUMN RAIN.....5
FRAGRANCE OF THE SUMMER KIMONO.....73
THE DIVA'S CAT.....121
BURIAL OF SNOW - SIX PETAL (SNOWFLAKE) EXTRACT.....137
SLEEPING FLOWER.....186

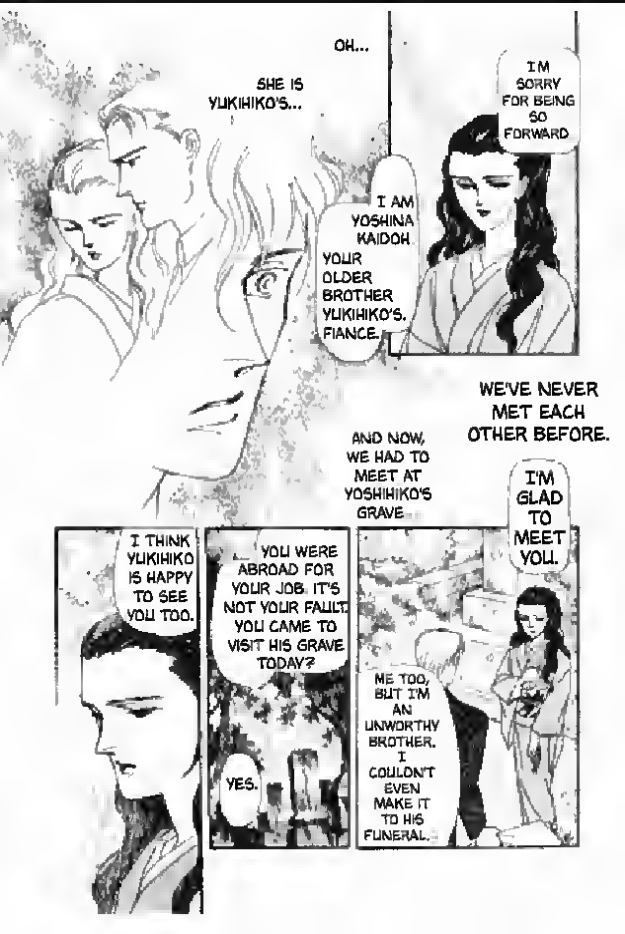
UPLOADER SAYS:
READ RIGHT TO LEFT

AND ALSO, SORRY FOR THE CRAPPY LOOKING PAGES. IT WAS LIKE THAT TO BEGIN WITH, I SWEAR.
~ORIANA3K

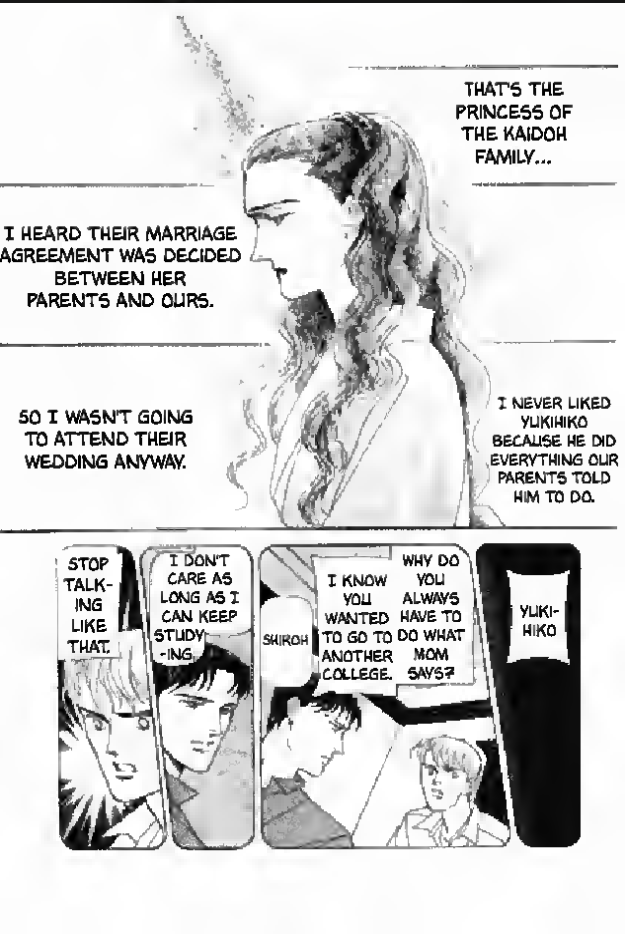
WHAT BAD LUCK, THAT IT'S STARTING TO RAIN.
AUTUMN RAIN...

Mourning of Autumn Rain


SHIROH
?
Y...
YES I
AM.
AREN'T
YOU...
SHIROH
HANADA?


OH...
SHE IS YUKIHIKO'S...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO FORWARD
I AM YOSHINA KAIDOH. YOUR OLDER BROTHER YUKIHIKO'S FIANCE.
WE'VE NEVER MET EACH OTHER BEFORE.
AND NOW, WE HAD TO MEET AT YOSHIHIKO'S GRAVE
I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU.
I THINK YUKIHIKO IS HAPPY TO SEE YOU TOO.
YOU WERE ABROAD FOR YOUR JOB. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU CAME TO VISIT HIS GRAVE TODAY?
YES.
ME TOO, BUT I'M AN UNWORTHY BROTHER. I COULDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO HIS FUNERAL.

WELL, I SHOULD GO NOW
OH!
SLIDE
I'M SORRY, THE GROUND IS SO SLIPPERY FROM THE RAIN...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE YOU HOME?
NO THANK YOU, THE DRIVER IS WAITING FOR ME.


THAT'S THE PRINCESS OF THE KAIDOH FAMILY...
I HEARD THEIR MARRIAGE AGREEMENT WAS DECIDED BETWEEN HER PARENTS AND OURS.
I NEVER LIKED YUKIHIKO BECAUSE HE DID EVERYTHING OUR PARENTS TOLD HIM TO DO.
SO I WASN'T GOING TO ATTEND THEIR WEDDING ANYWAY.
STOP TALK-ING LIKE THAT.
I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP STUDY-ING.
SHIROH
I KNOW YOU WANTED TO GO TO ANOTHER COLLEGE.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO DO WHAT MOM SAYS?
YUKI-HIKO

YOU'RE A LIAR.
IT'S NOT 'CAUSE MOM TOLD ME.
I DECIDED ON MY OWN.
SHIROH
JUST LOOKING AT YOU IRRITATES ME.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY WHAT YOU WANT?
HUH?
THE SECOND SON YUKIHIKO WAS THE CHILD OF MY FATHER'S LOVER.
PRAYER BEADS?
WHAT'S THIS?
I DON'T REMEMBER HAVING THESE BEFORE.
FROM HER?
COULD IT BE...

I DON'T THINK THEY COULD'VE FALLEN INTO MY POCKET BY ACCIDENT.
DID SHE DO IT ON PURPOSE?
I DON'T WANT TO.
YOU BETTER QUIT YOUR JOB AND MOVE BACK HERE.
NOW THAT YUKIHIKO IS GONE... YOU HAVE TO HELP THE FAMILY BUSINESS
YOU SAY YOU'RE A CAMERAMAN, SO YOU HAVE TO GO TO A REMOTE COUNTRY WHERE WE CAN'T EVEN CONTACT YOU WHEN THERE'S A DEATH IN THE FAMILY. IT'S NOT WORTH ANYTHING!
OR...
MY ELDEST BROTHER MASASHI HAS ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN THE HANADA FAMILY BUSINESS.
IS SHIROH HOME NOW?

SMACK!
DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW EVERY-THING. YOU KNOW NOTHING!
YOU WANT ME TO MARRY INTO THE KAIDOH FAMILY...
INSTEAD OF YUKIHIKO ?
I'M NOT A CHILD ANY-MORE.
IT DOES-N'T WORK THAT WAY NOW.
EVERY TIME I'M RIGHT ABOUT SOME-THING YOU HIT ME AND YOU'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
SHI-ROH
I'M GOING BACK TO TOKYO AFTER THE FORTY-NINE DAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR YUKIHIKO
SHIROH

HE'S ALREADY SHOCKED ABOUT YUKIHIKO'S DEATH
DON'T UPSET YOUR FATHER TOO MUCH, SHIROH
NOT BECAUSE OF YUKIHIKO'S DEATH.
HE'S SAD BECAUSE HE LOST HIS CHANCE TO MAKE A CONNECTION WITH THE KAIDOH FAMILY
YOUR EFFORTS WOULD'VE BEEN REWARDED IF HE COULD'VE MARRIED INTO THE KAIDOH FAMILY FOR THIS FAMILY
BUT THEN HE DIES SUDDENLY, IN AN ACCIDENT.
AREN'T YOU DISAPPOINTED?
THEN WHAT DID YOU THINK, MOTHER?
WHEN YUKI-HIKO DIED?
STOP IT. HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
WHAT KIND OF PARENTS WOULDN'T BE SAD IF THEY LOST THEIR CHILD?

I'VE...SAID A TERRIBLE THING...
SLAM!
BUT...
I KNOW SHE WAS TRYING THE BEST SHE COULD.
WITH HER SILENT PRESSURE.
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO KEPT YUKIHIKO FROM DOING ANYTHING...
BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE DIED.
THE REASON I'M SO FRUSTRATED ...

YOSHINA KAIDOH...

SHE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER
THIS MANSION LOOKS LIKE A CULTURAL ASSET.
I HEARD THIS FAMILY IS DESCENDED FROM A FEUDAL LORD FAMILY AROUND HERE.
I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.
GOOD-BYE, MA'AM.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
GO STRAIGHT HOME.
DO I HEAR A CHILD?
GOOD-BYE, MA'AM.

OH, YES THEY'RE MINE. I THOUGHT I LOST THEM.
AREN'T THESE PRAYER BEADS YOURS?
I GUESS SHE'S NOT GOING TO ADMIT THAT SHE DID IT ON PURPOSE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I MUST'VE DROPPED THEM AT THE CEMETERY.
YUKIHIKO WAS STANDING BEHIND YOU, THAT'S WHY..
TO TELL THE TRUTH..
NO ONE'S EVER SAID WE LOOKED ALIKE BEFORE.
REALLY?
I'M KIND OF SURPRISED YOU RECOGNIZED ME THERE.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU STRONGLY RESEMBLE YUKIHIKO.

HUH ?
mmm-hmm
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...
OR ARE YOU SCARED ?
AND TODAY WAS LESSON DAY, SO .
THESE LESSONS CREATE A GOOD DISTRACTION FOR ME.
I'VE INSISTED THAT MY FATHER LET ME GIVE LESSONS IN THE TEA CEREMONY AND FLOWER ARRANGEMENT TO CHILDREN
I HEARD KIDS VOICES BEFORE.
I SEE.. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN A KIMONO
IS IT RARE FOR YOU?
THE REASON I WEAR A KIMONO IS BECAUSE I HAVE A SCAR ON MY LEG FROM A BURN.
YES, I HARDLY SEE YOUNG WOMEN IN KIMONOS

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, SOME BOILING WATER SPILLED ON ME.
AND LEFT A TERRIBLE SCAR ON MY LEFT LEG, ALL THE WAY FROM MY THIGH TO MY SHIN.
I'M SORRY FOR BRINGING IT UP...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IT?

WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS HOW I COULD HIDE IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE..
I ALWAYS FELT INFERIOR BECAUSE OF THIS SCAR.
WHA ...
BUT THAT CHANGED AFTER I MET YUKIHIKO.
EVEN AFTER I STARTED TO WEAR A KIMONO ..
HE TOUCHED MY SCAR AND...
AFTER YUKIHIKO MADE LOVE TO ME...
KISSED ME THERE ...
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
SLIDE
BLUSH

I'M LEAV-ING!
MY WORK IS DONE.
CLINK
SLAM!
EXCUSE ME.
WHAT IS SHE THINKING? WHY...

AND THAT INCIDENT WITH THE PRAYER BEADS TOO...
SHE'S JUST TEASING ME.
I'M KIND OF SURPRISED THAT YUKIHIKO SLEPT WITH HER BEFORE THE WEDDING.
BUT THEN AGAIN, THEY WERE ENGAGED.
...
BUT STILL, SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO PICK ME.
WHAT IS IT?
HEY, SHIROH, WILL YOU DO ME A FAVOR?

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST DO THIS FOR HIM?
ORIGINALLY, YUKIHIKO WAS SUPPOSED TO ACT AS HOST AT THE TEA CEREMONY AT THAT PARTY.
WHY DON'T YOU GO INSTEAD OF ME?
YOU KNOW, BEING IN MOURNING, WE WON'T ATTEND, BUT COULD YOU JUST GO TO GREET THEM?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK TO ANYONE, JUST MAKE AN APPEARANCE.
COULD YOU TAKE SOME-THING OVER THERE?
THERE'S A GARDEN PARTY GOING ON.
I GUESS I CAN DO THAT
I HAVE TO GO LOOK AT THE WORLD WHERE YUKIHIKO LIVED BY HIS FATHER'S RULES AND WISHES?
DOES THIS MEAN THAT ...

MR. HANADA?
YES, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
RYOKO, COULD YOU PLEASE BRING THIS INSIDE?
SURE.
FATHER
YOSHINA
THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT FOR THIS TEA CEREMONY.

...NICE TO MEET YOU.
I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR FATHER.
YOU MUST BE SHIROH, RIGHT?
OH, IS THAT SO?
MR. HANADA BROUGHT US A GIFT FOR THE TEA CEREMONY.
YES, FATHER.
ENJOY THE PARTY, SHIROH.
YOSHINA, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW HIM THE GARDEN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE HERE
IT CANNOT BE HELPED
DON'T YOU FEEL ANY-THING?
NOT MANY DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE YUKIHIKO'S DEATH...
MY FATHER JUST WANTED ME TO MEET YOU BEFORE I GO BACK TO TOKYO.
OH, I GET IT. THE PARTY WAS JUST AN EXCUSE FOR A DATE.

DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE PARTY?
NO, I'M TAKING YUKIHIKO'S PLACE AND HELPING OUT IN THE KITCHEN.
I GET THE PICTURE NOW.
THE PEOPLE AT THIS PARTY ALL HAVE BIG NAMES AROUND HERE AND I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE KAIDOH FAMILY, YOUR FAMILY, HAS POWER.
ANYWAY, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN ME.
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN IT AT ALL.
I'M SURE YOUR FAMILY IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THESE PEOPLE.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT WE STILL HAVE INFLUENCE.
THAT'S BECAUSE OF HOW I'VE BEEN RAISED.

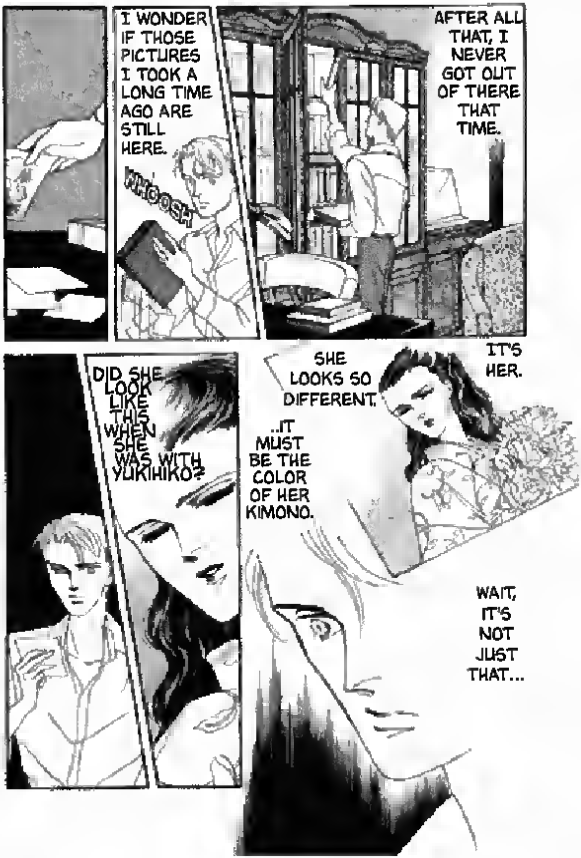
SHI-KOH.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT "NETHER WORLD MARRIAGE"?
AS AN ONLY DAUGHTER, I'VE GROWN UP BEING TAUGHT
TO REPRESENT OUR FAMILY PROPERLY.
AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
WAS YUKIHIKO GOOD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR HUSBAND?
I KNOW
I MIGHT HAVE TO DO SO SOONER OR LATER.
I'M NOT SUITABLE FOR THAT.
YOU'D BETTER MOVE ON AND FIND ANOTHER ONE.
MY FAMILY ISN'T THE ONLY SPONSOR FOR YOUR FAMILY, IS IT?

THE PERSON WHO COULDN'T CARRY OUT THE MARRIAGE WHILE THEY WERE ALIVE COMES BACK FROM THE NETHERWORLD AS A GHOST AND
IT HAS TO DO WITH EXCHANGING MARRIAGE VOWS WITH A DEAD PERSON.
YOU LIKE GHOST STORIES, DON'T YOU?
SHIROH.
GNTCH!
OH, I'M IN TROU-BLE.
NO ONE WILL MARRY ME IF THAT'S TRUE, RIGHT?
HEE HEE
HA HA HA..
AND YUKIHIKO COMES TO SEE YOU NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WERE GOING SAY NEXT?

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY YUKIHIKO DIED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BY ALL MEANS
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM
PLEASE VISIT ME HERE AGAIN TOMOR-ROW
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
COULD YOU PLEASE COME TO THE PREPARATION AREA FOR A LITTLE BIT?

THE TRUCK SKIDDED ON THE RAINY HIGHWAY, CAREENED INTO THE ONCOMING LANE AND COLLIDED HEAD-ON WITH A CAR...
IT WAS SIMPLY AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT
THIS ISN'T A TV DRAMA. HE WASN'T MURDERED OR ANYTHING.
YET I'M HAUNTED BY WHAT SHE SAYS.
STUDY, SPORTS, EVEN HIS RELATIONSHIPS
I CAN'T IMAGINE HE HAD ENEMIES.
SHIROH, WAIT.
HE DID EVERYTHING VERY SKILLFULLY.

IT'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME YET.
I CAN'T STAND MY GOD-DAMN FATHER ANY MORE.
DON'T. NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE IF YOU LEAVE NOW.
DON'T STOP ME. I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS AWFUL HOUSE.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM. YOU JUST HAVE TO WAIT A WHILE.
HE'S JUST FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THE NEW OPERATING DEPARTMENT ISN'T RUNNING SMOOTHLY YET.
YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOUR-SELF NOW, IDIOT.
...DON'T TELL MOTHER ...
I'M ALL RIGHT I JUST TOOK SOME MEDICINE.
YOU HAVE A FEVER. WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
SO ...
YUKIHIKO/2


I WONDER IF THOSE PICTURES I TOOK A LONG TIME AGO ARE STILL HERE.
FWOOSH
AFTER ALL THAT, I NEVER GOT OUT OF THERE THAT TIME.
IT'S HER.
SHE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT.
..IT MUST BE THE COLOR OF HER KIMONO.
DID SHE LOOK LIKE THIS WHEN SHE WAS WITH YUKIHIKO?
WAIT, IT'S NOT JUST THAT...

YOSHINA'S AT THE FOUNTAIN OF THE SPRING HOUSE. SHE ASKED ME TO BRING YOU THERE.
THE FOUNTAIN OF THE SPRING HOUSE?
IT'S A TEA CEREMONY ROOM. PLEASE COME ROUND THIS WAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT WOMAN IS THINKING BUT..
I CAN'T HELP BUT BE CURIOUS.
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT'S UP.

HEE
HEE
HEE

MA'AM,
WELL THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY
MA'AM ...
OH, YOU SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH COLD WORDS
SWEET HEART ...
HEE HEE HEE
CLUMP CLUMP

WAS SOME-ONE THERE?
Wha-?
NO, NO ONE WAS HERE...
BUT YOU'D BETTER LEAVE FOR TODAY.
THAT WOMAN IS AWFUL!
WHAT A JOKE.

YUKIHIKO PROBABLY WASN'T HER ONLY PARTNER.
DOES SHE WANT ME TO BE HER LOVER NOW BECAUSE YUKIHIKO IS GONE?
...GIVE ME A BREAK.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH SUCH A WOMAN.
WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY?

THERE'S NO TIME TO HESITATE.
HE'S LEAVING SOON.
I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND.
YUKIHIKO.
OH, SHIROH, YOU'RE HERE.
I'M SORRY I'M HERE.
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO MEET YOSHINA?
NAH. THAT ONLY MAKES DAD HAPPY IF I GO SEE HER.

HOW COULD SHE...
THERE'S NO GOOD OR BAD FOR HER.
WHEN YUKIHIKO DIED,
WHAT WOULD BE?
BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR HER.
WELL, HE DID WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS BEST, YOU KNOW?
HE MADE YOU GO ON A DATE, HUH?
SHE WAS TOTALLY UNSTABLE. WHAT CAN I SAY...I REALLY THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO FOLLOW YUKIHIKO.
I KNOW IT'S AN OUTRAGEOUS IDEA, BUT I REALLY BELIEVED IT
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TODAY?

IS IT SO MUCH FUN TO TEASE ME?
YOU KNEW I WAS THERE, DIDN'T YOU?
R-R-RUMBLE!
oh...
DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY. SHE'S MY INSTRUCTOR.
INST-RUCTOR?
SHE WAS TEACHING ME HOW TO ATTRACT A MAN.
TO ATTRACT YOU...

WAIT. WAIT, SHIROH.
I'M HANG-ING UP.
PLEASE HELP ME.
ONLY YOU CAN HELP ME. NO ONE ELSE.
OTHERWISE, EVEN AFTER FORTY-NINE DAYS HAD PASSED, AND AFTER THE FIRST ANNIVER-SARY OF HIS DEATH.
KA-BOOM!
...OHHH!
THE MOURNING FOR YUKIHIKO WON'T END...

C-C-CRACKLE!
R-R-R-RUMBLE!
WHAT'S WRONG?
...TH-THUN-DER..
AIEEEE!!
CLICK-CLICK-
KA-BOOM!
BEEP-BEEP-BEEP
R-R-R-RUMBLE! KA-BANG!

PING-PING
I SHOULDN'T CARE.
KA-BANG!
IS SHE ACTING?
ALTHOUGH...
PLEASE HELP ME.
WHSSHHHHH
KA-BANG!
WHSSHHHHH

IT'S RAINING AGAIN.. AND THE THUNDER... IT'S JUST LIKE...
RAIN.
WHSHHHH
K-A-BOOM!!!
JUST LIKE BEFORE.
KIKU.. KIKUYO ?
ARE YOU THERE ?
BRRRRING
WHSSHHHHHH
CREAK
...NO ...IS SOMEONE..

I REMEMBER THERE'S A MAID THERE.
SLAM!
DIDN'T SHE CALL FROM HER HOUSE?
WHY ISN'T ANYONE ANSWERING?
TERRR TERRR
I CAN'T MARRY YOU LIKE THIS.

PLEASE LOVE ME MORE THAN THAT SOME-ONE
THERE'S SOME-ONE YOU LOVE MORE THAN ME.
YOSHI-KA.
I BECOME SO HELPLESS
WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THAT PERSON, AND WHEN YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THEM...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO UGLY TO FEEL THIS JEALOUS, I CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF
PLEASE
WHSSHHHHH

YUKI-HIKO.
WHY DID HE...
WHY ...
OHHH ...
IT'S NOT FAIR ...!
WHY DID HE LEAVE ME LIKE THIS?
HOW COULD HE LEAVE ME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING ...?
FLASHH!

YUKIHIKO?
...YUKIHIKO!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OPEN YOUR EYES, I'M SHIROH.
HISSHHHH

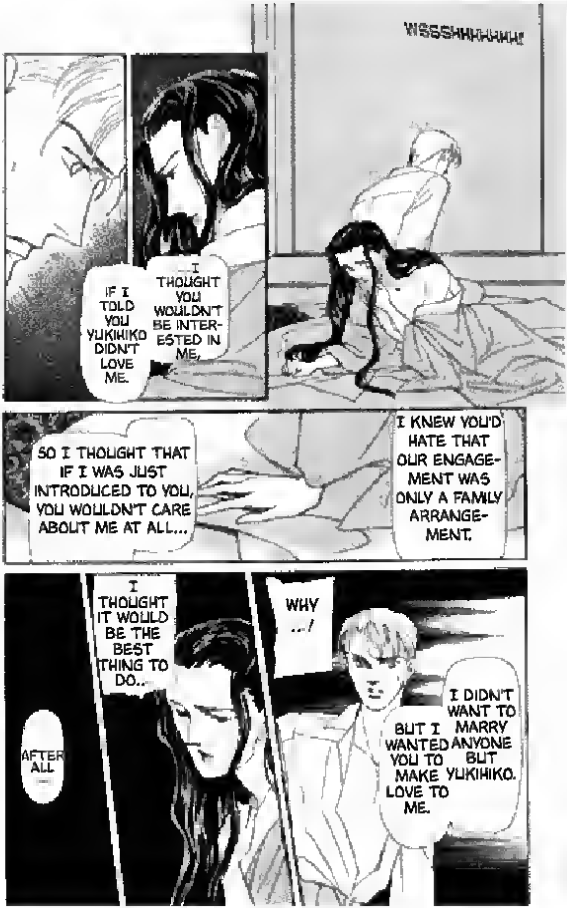
I'M SORRY
IT...IT'S MY FAULT THAT HE DIED...
IF I HADN'T SAID SUCH A THING...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
YOSHI-NA...
I... LOVED YUKIHIKO.
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME,
BUT I REAL-LY LOVED HIM.

WHAT CAN I DO..?
WHAT ...
YOU CAN LAUGH AT ME AND SAY IT'S JUST A CHILDISH AFFAIR OR A CRUSH,
BUT HE WAS MY EVERY-THING ....
SHIROH

PLEASE... DON'T LOOK AT MY... LEFT LEG.
WHY NOT? YOU SAID YUKIHIKO
PLEASE...
wwshhhhhh!

AH..
AHH!
YOU ARE ...
NO...
...NO.
STAY LIKE THIS.

...YUKI-HIKO...
WSSSHHHHHHH!
DID YOU HAVE TO LIE TO ME...?
WHY ...


WSSSHHHHHH!!
IF I TOLD YOU YUKIHIKO DIDN'T LOVE ME.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN ME.
SO I THOUGHT THAT IF I WAS JUST INTRODUCED TO YOU, YOU WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT ME AT ALL...
I KNEW YOU'D HATE THAT OUR ENGAGEMENT WAS ONLY A FAMILY ARRANGEMENT.
AFTER ALL...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE BEST THING TO DO..
WHY ...!
I DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY ANYONE BUT I WANTED YOU TO BUT MAKE YUKIHIKO. LOVE TO ME.

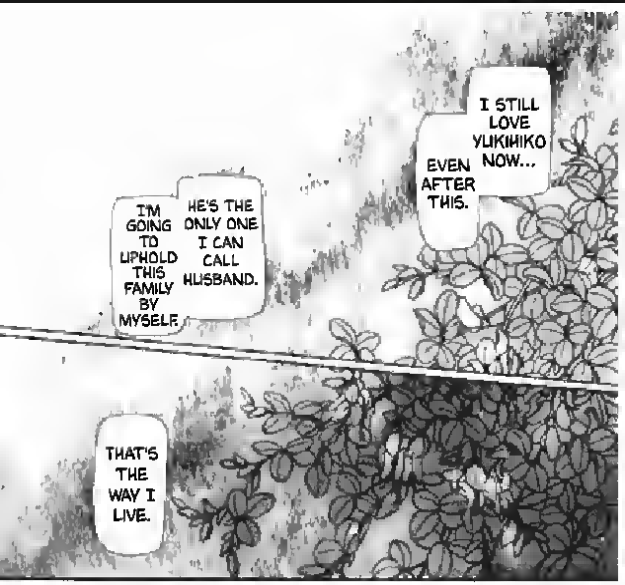
YUKIHIKO LOVED YOU.
WHAT ...?
THE PERSON HE REALLY LOVED WAS YOU.
MORE THAN ME...
MORE THAN ANY-BODY ELSE

BY THE TONE OF HIS VOICE AND THE WAY HE LOOKED EVERY TIME HE TALKED ABOUT YOU...
IT MADE ME REALIZE.
WHEN I SAW YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, I REALIZED WHO YOU WERE.
NOW YOU KNOW WHY.
I THOUGHT HIS HEART COULDN'T BE MINE, EVEN IF WE GOT MARRIED
WHEN I REALIZED IT WAS YOU HE LOVED,
I WOULDN'T HAVE SUFFERED AS MUCH
IF HE HAD LOVED SOME OTHER WOMAN ...
...AND THAT THOUGHT MADE ME HELPLESS.

PLEASE PLEASE LOVE ME.
THE DAY YUKIHIKO DIED...
THAT'S WHY, THAT DAY...
MORE THAN SHIROH ...!
IT WAS LIKE I'D BROKEN THE SEAL ON SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN OPENED
I REGRET-TED IT AS SOON AS I SAID IT.
YOU LOVE SHIROH... MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE.
I CAN TELL EVEN THOUGH NO ONE ELSE NOTICES
YO-SHI-NA?

HE DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING.
HE LEFT IN THE HARD RAIN...
AND HE GOT INTO THAT ACCI-DENT
IF ONLY I HADN'T SAID SUCH A THING...
IT MAKES ME THINK HE'D STILL BE ALIVE
STOP IT NOW...

NO, I CAN'T.
CAN'T YOU BE HAPPY WITH THAT?
I DIDN'T CARE IF I WAS ONLY A SUBSTI-TUTE FOR YUKIHIKO THAT'S WHY I MADE LOVE TO YOU.
I THOUGHT
IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THAN MINE.
THE WAY YUKI-HIKO LOVED
YOU HAVE TO LIVE YOUR WAY...


I STILL LOVE YUKIHIKO NOW...
EVEN AFTER THIS.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN CALL HUSBAND.
I'M GOING TO UPHOLD THIS FAMILY BY MYSELF.
THAT'S THE WAY I LIVE.

I RETURNED TO TOKYO IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT EVEN WAITING FOR THE FORTY-NINE DAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR YUKIHIKO.

I HOPE YUKIHIKO WILL FORGIVE ME FOR LEAVING EARLY.
CAN'T HELP IT, I'VE GOT MY JOB.
I'M SORRY.
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO LEAVE TODAY?
AS I EXPECTED, MY FATHER WAS FURIOUS AND MY MOTHER CRIED, BUT I JUST WANTED TO GET OUT OF THERE.
THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A RIDE.
ARE WE GOING TO MAKE IT TO THE TRAIN?
WHEN I GET BACK TO MY NORMAL LIFE, I'LL BE ABLE TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT HAPPENED WAS JUST A DREAM.
YEAH
YOU CAN COME HOME WHENEVER YOU'RE FREE, YOU KNOW.

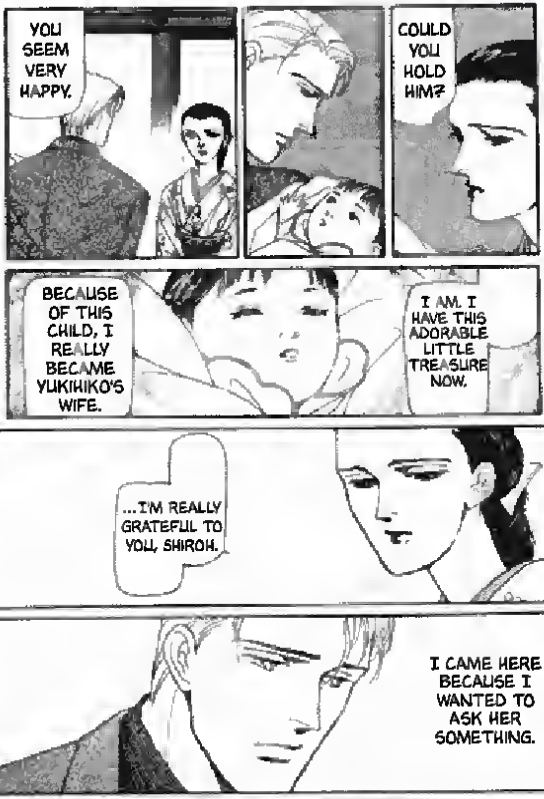
HONK! HONK!
SHIROH
WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE GOTTEN HOME A LITTLE EARLIER? YUKIHIKO'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY WAS A WEEK AGO.
DON'T MAKE DAD TOO UPSET.
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD I COULD EVEN GET BACK TO JAPAN AT ALL.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD WARN YOU BEFORE WE GET HOME.
YOU CAME TO PICK ME UP?
I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT BECAUSE A CIVIL WAR JUST BROKE OUT IN THE COUNTRY I'M WORKING IN.
THAT TOO IS ONE MORE FLAME ADDED TO THE FIRE OF DAD'S ANGER.

...A WHOLE YEAR ALREADY GONE...
YEAH, I'M A TOTALLY WORTH-LESS SON.
SHE SAYS HE'S YUKI-HIKO'S SON.
DID SHE GET MAR-RIED?
A DAUGHTER OF THE KAITOH FAMILY... YOSHINA HAD A BABY
SHIROH, I DIDN'T TELL YOU THIS BEFORE, BUT I SHOULD TELL YOU NOW
WHAT IS IT?
YUKI-HIKO'S...?
I HEARD HER FAMILY HAD TROUBLE OVER IT BECAUSE THEY FOUND OUT RIGHT BEFORE THEY WERE GOING TO MARRY HER OFF TO SOMEONE ELSE.
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WE CAN THINK OF AND IF SHE SAYS SO, IT MUST BE TRUE.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, I GUESS IT WORKED OUT FOR DAD ANYWAY, BECAUSE NOW WE HAVE A CONNECTION WITH THE KAITOH FAMILY
WE TALKED IT OVER AND AGREED THE BABY WAS PROBABLY YUKIHIKO'S
.. OR COMMIT SUICIDE.
SHE TOLD HER PARENTS SHE WOULD RAISE THE CHILD WITHOUT GETTING MARRIED...
THANKS TO YUKIHIKO, WE'RE UNCLES NOW.
NOTHING.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IS THAT WHAT SHE WANTED FROM THE BEGINNING?
DID SHE MEAN SHE WAS GOING TO MARRY YUKIHIKO?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT "NETHER WORLD MARRIAGE"?
I WANTED YOU TO MAKE LOVE TO ME.
COULD IT BE... ...REALLY?

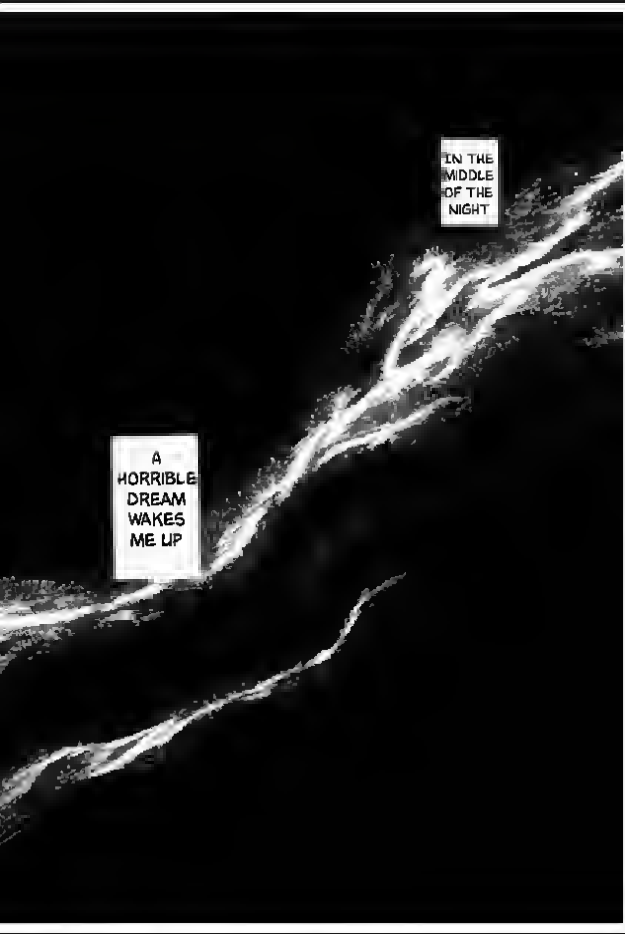
...THIS HOUSE...
PLEASE COME IN.
OH! HI, HOW'RE YOU?
SHIROH.
SEEMS DIFFERENT SINCE I WAS HERE LAST TIME.
IT'S MORE BRIGHT AND FLOWERY.
...OH, I KNOW WHY
HER MOURNING PERIOD IS OVER.

LONG TIME NO SEE.
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CAME.
YES, PLEASE BRING YUKIHIKO HERE.
EXCUSE ME, YOSHINA.
I SHOULD SHOW MY SON TO SHIROH.
HE IS YUKIHIKO'S CHILD


YOU SEEM VERY HAPPY.
COULD YOU HOLD HIM?
BECAUSE OF THIS CHILD, I REALLY BECAME YUKIHIKO'S WIFE.
I AM. I HAVE THIS ADORABLE LITTLE TREASURE NOW.
...I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU, SHIROH.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASK HER SOMETHING.

THIS IS HOW SHE DOES IT.
NOW I UNDERSTAND...
IT'S EVERY-THING TO HER TO KEEP LOVING YUKIHIKO.
BUT I SEE
I HAVE NOTHING TO ASK HER NOW.

FRAGRANCE OF THE SUMMER KIMONO
なつぎぬの薫り


IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
A HORRIBLE DREAM WAKES ME UP

FOR A WHILE, I CAN'T EVEN MOVE
SOME ONE IS...
EVEN AFTER I MANAGE TO SIT UP,
I FEEL THE DARKNESS OF THE SUMMER NIGHT HANGING OVER ME. A SENSE OF CHOKING LINGERS...

I SENSE SOMEONE WATCHING ME FROM BEHIND THE MOSQUITO NET.
IT'S NOT A SUSPI-CIOUS OR A CHILL-ING FEEL-ING AT ALL.
SHE'S JUST THERE, WATCHING MY FACE.
THE SCENT OF HER MAKES ME RELAX A LITTLE.

WHY DO I THINK IT'S A WOMAN ...?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN SEE HER FACE.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I SMELLED THE SUBTLE HINT OF INCENSE FROM HER CLOTHING.
BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN SOME WANING EFFECT OF THE DREAM.

THE OWNER OF THIS HOTEL HAS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE FOR A LONG TIME. I RENT THIS ROOM EVERY SUMMER FOR A MONTH.
I SEE, SO IT'S A PERFECT PLACE TO RECUPERATE.
THIS IS A WELL-ESTABLISHED HOTEL, ISN'T IT? THIS DETACHED ROOM IS ESPECIALLY QUIET.
THIS IS A NICE, QUIET PLACE, ALTHOUGH IT'S A LITTLE BIT INCONVENIENT. IT TOOK MORE TIME TO GET HERE THAN I THOUGHT.
SO, HOW ARE YOUR EYES?
I'M SORRY ...
SAME AS BEFORE. I CAN'T SEE A THING.

IF I'M BLIND FROM EMOTIONAL SHOCK, DON'T YOU THINK I'M A FAILURE AS A PAINTER?
BUT IT'S NOT A DISEASE OF THE EYES. I'M SURE YOU'LL RECOVER SOON.
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT. THEY WERE MURDERED ...
...BY A ROBBER WHILE I WAS OUT AND THE KILLER IS STILL AT LARGE.
...
MR. SHIKI, IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT ABOUT YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER.
TO EXPERIENCE THE EFFECTS OF SHOCK IS ONLY NATURAL
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU ARE HIGHLY COMPETENT AND SO POPULAR.
SHIKI COLLECTION
I WASN'T PAINTING MUCH AT ALL ANYWAY.

MR. SHIKI ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. NISHIWAKI? AS AN ART DEALER?
IF I WERE TO KILL MYSELF AND FOLLOW THEM TO THE GRAVE, DON'T YOU THINK MY PAINTINGS WOULD INCREASE IN VALUE A LITTLE?
THE PAINTER WHO LOVED HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER SO MUCH HE USED THEM AS HIS MODELS LOSES THEM AND BECOMES BLIND FROM GRIEF THAT WOULD MAKE INTERESTING NEWS, WOULDN'T IT?
I KNOW
THAT ISN'T A VERY FUNNY JOKE.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SELLING THEM TO YOU.

I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING A CONTRACT WITH YOU, ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA IF MY WIFE MADE A PROMISE TO YOU WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE.
AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SELLING YOU OTHER PAINTER'S PAINTINGS IN MY COLLECTION EITHER.
I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR OWN POINT OF VIEW
LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR NEXT TIME MY [illegible] COMES
YOU'D BEST LEAVE NOW.

THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN ME AND MR. NISHIWAKI.
STOP CONSULTING HIM ABOUT MY WORK...
AND NOT ASKING ME.
THEN
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY SUCH A THING...?

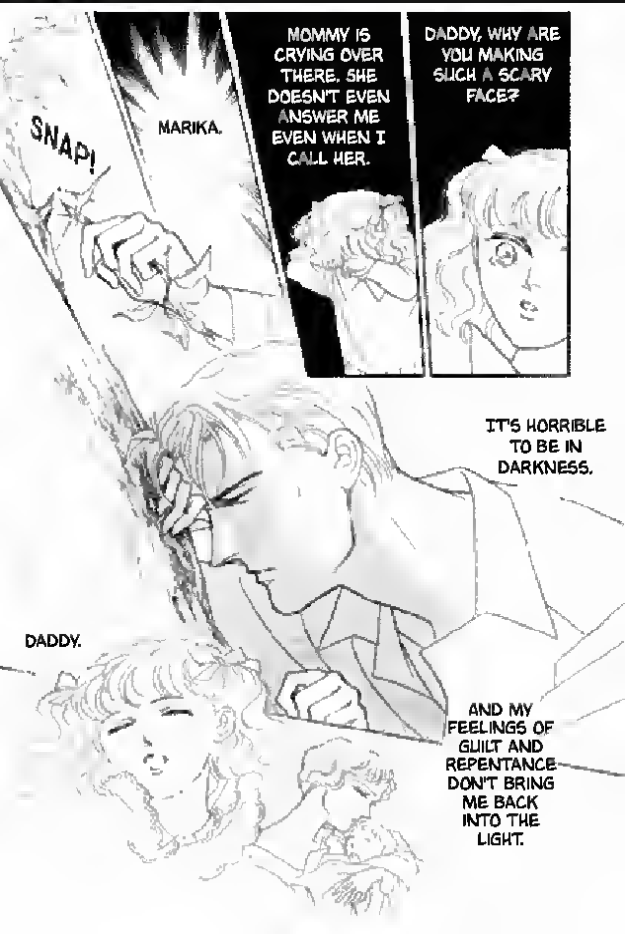
I DON'T TRUST HIM.
THAT'S WHY...
YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED A PAINTING FOR OVER TWO YEARS NOW.
I DIDN'T DO IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
DO YOU WISH YOU WOULD'VE MARRIED SOMEONE WITH MORE TALENT?
YOU ALWAYS THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING. THAT'S WHY YOU GET INTO A SLUMP.
I KNOW I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE ASKING FOR YOUR HAND. NISHIWAKI WAS ONE OF THEM, WASN'T HE?
WHAT?
SOME OF THE PAINTERS WHO WERE SUPPORTED BY YOUR FATHER WERE HOPING TO MARRY YOU.

SMACK!
YOU'LL LOSE FACE IF I'M SLOPPY, RIGHT?
...ARE YOU... SAYING THAT SERIOUSLY ...?
I'M A... LITTLE BIT TIRED.
...

YEAH...
I SAID TOO MUCH TOO
I GUESS YOU ARE.
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME
SOMETHING WAS WRONG BETWEEN US.
WHY WERE WE HURTING EACH OTHER SO MUCH?
WE BOTH KNEW WE WERE REGRETTING THE OTHER'S WORDS.
MR. SHIKI.
WAIT A MOMENT PLEASE. I'LL BRING THE FOOTWEAR AND CANE FOR YOU.
I JUST WANNA TAKE A WALK AROUND THE GARDEN
IS THAT MATSUKICHI...?
ARE YOU GOING OUT?

THANK YOU. I ALWAYS APPRECIATE IT.
FEEL FREE TO CALL ME IF YOU NEED SOME-ONE.
I'LL BE FINE. I'M FAMILIAR WITH THIS GARDEN NOW.
DO YOU NEED AN ATTEN-DANT TO GO WITH YOU?

EVEN IF I'M BLIND
I STILL CAN FEEL
THE EARLY SUMMER WIND AND THE SUNLIGHT.
IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE THE FRAGRANT GREENERY
COULD GIVE ME LIFE ONCE AGAIN.
DADDY!

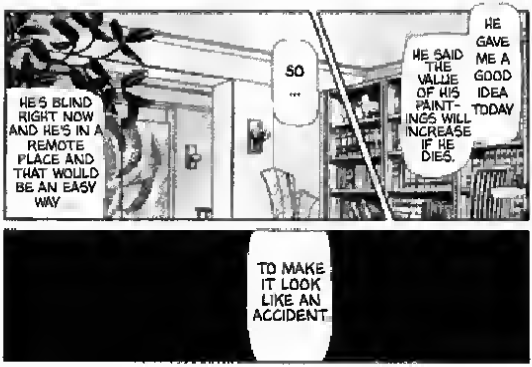

SNAP!
MARIKA.
MOMMY IS CRYING OVER THERE. SHE DOESN'T EVEN ANSWER ME EVEN WHEN I CALL HER.
DADDY, WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A SCARY FACE?
IT'S HORRIBLE TO BE IN DARKNESS.
DADDY.
AND MY FEELINGS OF GUILT AND REPENTANCE DON'T BRING ME BACK INTO THE LIGHT.

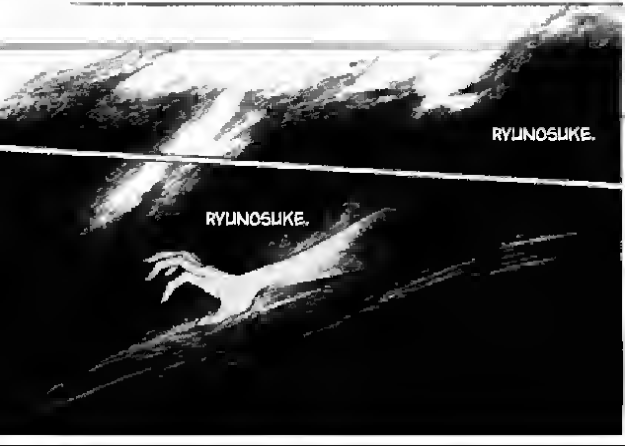
I LOVE YOU, DADDY.
I'M RUNNING AWAY.
ALTHOUGH IT'S VERY RARE, PEOPLE DO BECOME BLIND FROM PSYCHO-LOGICAL SUPPRESSION
NOTHING IS WRONG WITH YOUR EYES.
EX-CUSE ME...
FROM PAINTING, TOO...
FROM REALITY...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FEELING WELL
OH...NO, I'M FINE.
I THINK YOU BETTER GO BACK—I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR ROOM.
THE SMELL OF INCENSE.
?

PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.
IS THIS THE SAME FRA-GRANCE FROM THAT NIGHT?
WASN'T THAT...
A DREAM?
OH, THANK YOU.
PLEASE TAKE MY HAND
MR. SHIKI

YEAH. THIS WOMAN BROUGHT ME BACK HERE.
I WAS SURPRISED BECAUSE I FOUND A CANE BY THE EDGE OF THE POND. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MR. SHIKI, IT'S TEA TIME. OH, MATSUKICHI IS HERE TOO.
NOBODY SEEMS TO BE AROUND HERE NOW
SHE WAS HERE WITH ME. IS SHE GONE? I SHOULD THANK HER.
WO-MAN?
OH, YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT TOMOYO, RIGHT?
I HOPE YOU REMEMBER HER NAME NOW. SHE'S YOUR ROOM MAID.
WHISHHHH

I KNOW/ IT WAS AN ACCIDENT THAT I KILLED HIS WIFE.
MONEY? THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET NOW.
YEAH, IT'S ME.
IF WE CAN GET THE PAINTINGS THAT HE OWNS, WE'LL MAKE BACK THE LOSS, YOU KNOW.
IT WOULD BE SO EASY TO MAKE A FAKE CON-TRACT.
SHE ALMOST CONNECTED WITH ME BECAUSE THEY WERE HAVING TROUBLE, BUT IN THE END SHE REJECTED ME.


HE'S BLIND RIGHT NOW AND HE'S IN A REMOTE PLACE AND THAT WOULD BE AN EASY WAY
SO ...
HE SAID THE VALUE OF HIS PAINT-INGS WILL INCREASE IF HE DIES.
HE GAVE ME A GOOD IDEA TODAY
TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.


RYUNOSUKE.
RYUNOSUKE.

HELP ME, RYU-NOSUKE.
DADDY.
ARGHH/
AHH ...

...ARE YOU... THERE ...?
YES ...
I MUST STILL BE DREAM-ING...
SKOOSH
WERE YOU HAVING A PAINFUL DREAM?

THE DREAM ABOUT MY WIFE AND MY DAUGHTER GETTING MURDERED ...
THIS IS...
I COULD NOT HELP THEM.
NOT A REALITY.
I COULDN'T BEAR THAT WE WEREN'T GETTING ALONG...SO I TOOK A TRIP...I WAS RUNNING AWAY.
YES...THIS CAN'T BE REAL.
IT'S MY FAULT.
PLEASE, THAT'S ENOUGH.
THEY DIED WHILE I WAS AWAY.
I SHOULD'VE GONE BACK HOME EARLIER. I WAS GOING TO START OVER WHEN I GOT HOME...I WAS TOO LATE...!

PLEASE STOP HURTING YOUR-SELF.
IT'S VERY HARD FOR ME TO SEE YOU SUFFER-ING.
FRAGRANCE OF INCENSE
GENTLE VOICE
...I WONDER WHOSE VOICE THIS IS?
I WONDER WHY SHE'S SO GENTLE... EVEN THOUGH THIS IS JUST MY DREAM CONTINUING...

CLACK!
WHISH
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT CONCERNING YOUR WIFE. YOU MUST WANT TO KNOW WHO KILLED YOUR WIFE, DON'T YOU?
...YES I AM.. WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE MR. RYUNOSUKE SHIKI, RIGHT?
MR. SHIKI

COULD YOU COME WITH ME PLEASE?
THERE'S SOMEONE WAITING WHOM I WANT YOU TO MEET
SHHH, PLEASE BE QUIET I WAITED FOR A LONG TIME TO FIND YOU ALONE
WHAT ...?
SOUND OF THE BAMBOOS...?
WHISH
HOW FAR ARE WE GOING ?
THIS PLACE IS...

SLAM
YOU'RE RIGHT, I THINK THIS SPOT'S JUST FINE.
SHWSH
CRUNCH-FWSH
SNATCH

DADDY!
SHOVE!
SHIT.
HE'S GOING TO KILL ME.
IF I LET GO
IT'S ALL OVER.
GO ON! JUST LET GO!

HEY/
MURDERER/
?
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?
SOMEBODY/ SOMEBODY HELP/
AHH/!
WAIT!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT HAPPENED ?

AHH!
SINSH-
KRENCH
SLIP
DAMN
HELP!
HURRY! MR. SHIKI NEEDS HELP
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THAT WAS CLOSE.
IF YOU FELL, YOU'D BE DEAD.
YEAH ...

YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
I'M TOMOYO
YOU ARE... THE HOTEL'S?
MR. I'M SHIKI SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE
I WAS SCREAMING FOR HELP BEFORE I KNEW IT.
I... DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
I GUESS I WAS FOLLOWING YOU BUT DIDN'T KNOW IT.
I HAD NO IDEA HOW I GOT THERE.
I REMEMBER GOING TO YOUR ROOM.
FRAGRANCE OF INCENSE?
HMM, IT DOES SMELL LIKE INCENSE, I WONDER WHY
SNIFF SNIFF
ME?
DO YOU USE THAT INCENSE ALL THE TIME?

WHISH
IT DIDN'T SMELL LIKE THIS A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
IT'S HER.
SHE BROUGHT TOMOYO HERE.

I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T GET HURT.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO ALSO KILLED MIZUE...I MEAN YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER.
THE POLICE HAD AN ARREST WARRANT FOR HIM BUT HE'D ALREADY COMMITTED SUICIDE AT MT. TAMA IN HIS CAR.
THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL YOU CONFESSED THAT HE WAS AN ACCOMPLICE OF NISHIWAKI

IT SEEMS THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO GET CLOSER TO YOUR WIFE, FOR HER PROPERTY.
HE'D LOST HIS CONFIDENCE BECAUSE SOMEONE SOLD HIM COUNTERFEITS AND ALSO HIS REAL ESTATE BUSINESS WASN'T DOING WELL. SO HE WAS FRUSTRATED BY ALL OF THIS.
SO MIZUE KNEW ABOUT IT TOO?
WHILE YOU WERE TRAVELING, YOUR WIFE CAME TO GET MY ADVICE ABOUT IT.
I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER...
SHE SAID "I'M GLAD I FOUND OUT ABOUT IT BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE." SHE ALSO SAID SHE WANTED TO START OVER WITH YOU WHEN YOU GOT HOME.
YES.

NO, THIS IS WHAT FAMILY LAWYERS DO
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE.
OH, ONE MORE THING.
SHE DID ...?
YOUR WIFE SAID SHE FOUND AN OLD PAINTING OF YOURS AND SHE WANTED TO BUY IT BACK. SO SHE WAS ASKING ME ABOUT THE MONEY SITUATION
I...
I HOPE YOU'RE WELL SOON.
I WONDER IF WE CAN FEEL THE WAY WE USED TO ABOUT EACH OTHER —
PLEASE. DO AS MY WIFE ASKED
I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU WHEN YOU COOLED OFF WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?

DO YOU REMEMBER THOSE DAYS?

PLEASE TRY TO REMEMBER...

AS SHE WISHED ...

...I ASKED THEM TO PUT THE LIGHTS ON BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU, BUT I STILL CAN'T SEE ANY-THING.

IS MY HAND WARM?
YES ...
HOW ABOUT MY LIPS?
YES, THEY'RE BOTH WARM.
HOW ABOUT MY CHEEK?
WOULD YOU PLEASE TRY TO BELIEVE THAT I'M HERE?
...I DO BELIEVE.

PLEASE
I LOVE YOU.
I'LL LOVE YOU FOR-EVER, SO...
I KNOW.
PLEASE DON'T THINK ABOUT COMMITTING SUICIDE ANYMORE.

I ALREADY KNOW WHO SHE IS.
MAYBE I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING.
SO I DIDN'T EVEN ASK HER.

SHE IS HERE JUST FOR ME.
SOON AFTER, I RECOVERED MY SIGHT...
MIZUE ...

AND I WENT BACK HOME.
PLEASE COME AGAIN, MR. SHIKI!
SURE, I'LL BRING IT TO YOUR HOME.
I GOT BACK THE PAINTING THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THAT DAY, AND NOW IT'S HERE.
R-R-
R-RIP?
WHICH ONE IS IT? I MAY NOT REMEMBER BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO.
I'M SURE YOU RECALL THIS.
WHEN I SAW THE PAINTING,
I KNEW WHY SHE WANTED TO BUY IT BACK

DO YOU REMEMBER NOW?
THE MODEL IS YOUR WIFE, AM I RIGHT?

I REMEMBER.
OF COURSE...
IN THE SUMMER. WHEN I WAS STAYING AT THE HOTEL, IN THAT BUNGALOW.
I PAINTED THIS WHILE WE WERE ENGAGED.
THIS WAS MY GRANDMOTHER'S SUMMER KIMONO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, RYUNOSUKE?
AS MY GRANDMOTHER USED TO DO.
I BURNED INCENSE INTO THIS KIMONO.
MMM, YOU SMELL GOOD.

EVERY TIME YOU SMELL THIS INCENSE?
DO YOU THINK ABOUT ME
WE WERE HAPPY IN THOSE DAYS, SO...
I GUESS SHE WANTED TO GO BACK TO THOSE TIMES.
I WONDER ...
IF YOUR WIFE WAS TRYING TO BRING BACK THOSE FEELINGS.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN REGRETFUL.
YEAH, I REMEMBER
THE SMELL OF THE SUMMER KIMONO
AND THE FEELING OF IT TOO.

THE TIME I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING
IT COMES BACK TO ME MORE BRIGHTLY
I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

I'M ...
A SINGER WITH TALENT, STATUS, AND A JOB.
BUT I GOT SO WRAPPED UP TRYING TO REACH THOSE GOALS, I WAS SOON ALL ALONE.

THE WINTER IS COLDER WHEN YOU'RE LIVING ALONE SO I BROUGHT A CAT HOME.
DID I WAKE YOU UP?
OH... YOU'RE HOME ...
NOW THE WINTER IS ENDING, BUT I STILL CAN'T LET GO OF HIS WARMTH.

IT'S A WAKE-UP KISS.
LOOKS LIKE MY LIPSTICK GOT ON YOUR LIPS.
WEL-COME HOME, DIVA.
YOU SLEEP A LO., YOU'RE JUST LIKE A CAT
I WAS GONNA STAY AWAKE AND WAIT FOR YOU I WONDER WHEN I FELL ASLEEP.
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU LET ME STAY HERE?
BECAUSE I AM A CAT, RIGHT?
HEH HEH

KLINK!
DOESN'T THE MALE CAT HAVE WANDER-LUST?
REALLY?
WOULDN'T YOU LET ME STAY FOREVER?
YOU'RE SO COLD.
YOU'RE RIGHT. SO FEEL FREE TO LEAVE HERE ANYTIME YOU WANT, TOO
THERE WAS A TOMCAT THAT STAYED ONLY ONE WINTER WITH ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD. HE WAS A WILD CAT BUT HE SETTLED DOWN IN OUR HOUSE.
BUT WE DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL HE LEFT.
SHE CONSOLED ME AND SAID HE MIGHT COME BACK.
MY GRAND-MOTHER TOLD ME THAT'S WHAT MALE CATS DO.

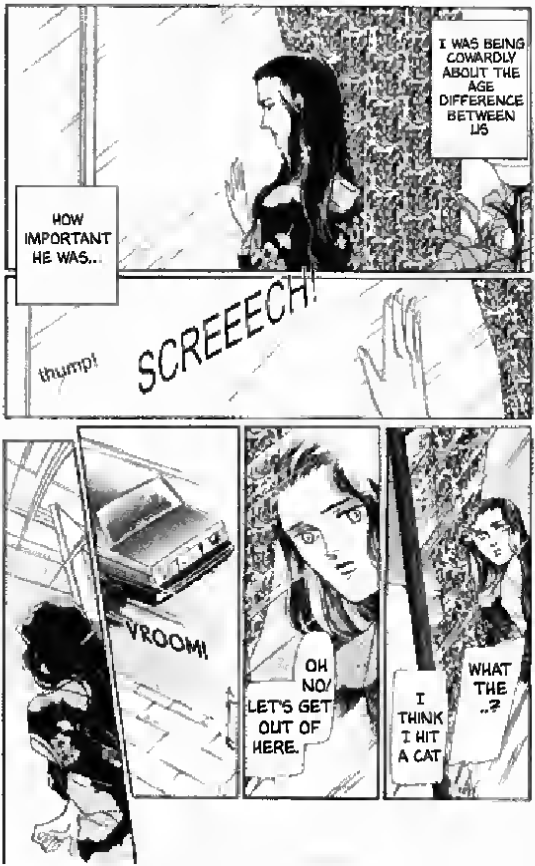
HE NEVER CAME BACK.
I REALLY LOVED THAT CAT.
THAT WAS ME.
HUH?
THAT CAT WAS... ME.

I'M GLAD YOU REMEMBER ME.
I SEE...
GLAD YOU CAME BACK.
I DIDN'T KNOW
IT'S ONE OF HIS GAMES AGAIN.
IT ALSO MATCHES MY AGE IF IT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO, RIGHT?

WASN'T THAT CAT WHITE, WITH SPOTS ON HIS LEFT FRONT LEG?
OF COURSE. I AGED AS HUMANS DO.
IS IT REALLY?
YOU REMEMBER THAT, DON'T YOU?
KLINK
I GUESS SO...

I CAN'T REMEMBER ...
I DIDN'T EVEN ASK HIS REAL NAME OR WHAT HE DID FOR A LIVING
I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO GET ATTACHED TO HIM.
I ONLY WANTED HIM TO KEEP ME WARM IN THE WINTER.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS ALL I WANTED... BUT...
SOON, THE SPRING WILL BE OVER.

AND ONE DAY,
HE WAS GONE.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU
LOVE...
LOVE...
MY OWN SONG ECHOES IN MY HEAD LIKE A BROKEN RECORD
AND IT MAKES ME REALIZE


I WAS BEING COWARDLY ABOUT THE AGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US
HOW IMPORTANT HE WAS...
thump!
SCREEECH!
VROOM!
OH NO! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
I THINK I HIT A CAT
WHAT THE ..?

WASN'T THAT CAT WHITE WITH SPOTS ON HIS LEFT FRONT LEG?
NO WAY ...
THAT CAT WAS ME.
YOU'RE MY CAT FROM NOW ON.
AM I BELIE-VING
WHAT HE SAID? I MUST BE A FOOL

I LOVE YOU.
I SHOULD'VE SAID IT BEFORE... I'M SORRY.

DING-DONG!
YES, BUT ...
YES ...
YOU'RE PROBABLY MAD AT ME BUT COULD I COME IN? .. I WANT YOU TO HEAR MY STORY.
OH ...
YES?
click

I ALREADY HAVE A NEW CAT, SO...
TELL ME YOUR NAME FIRST.
AND I HAVE A LOT MORE TO ASK YOU.
AND I WANT YOU TO HEAR ME OUT...

DIVA'S CAT / THE END

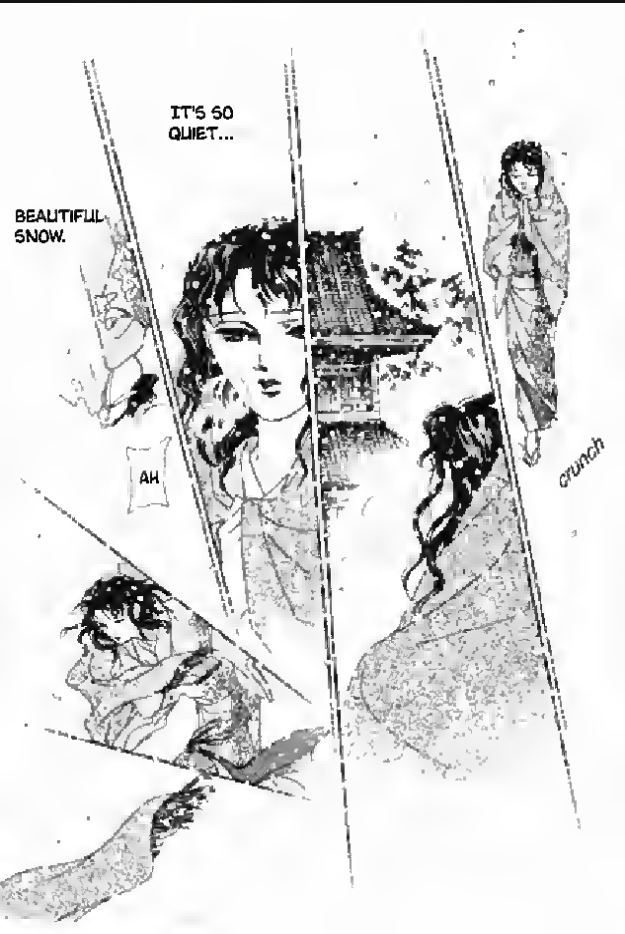
Burial of Snow -
Six petal (Snowflake) Extract

AREN'T YOU COLD WITH THE WINDOW OPEN?
YES.
HAS EVERY-ONE LEFT?
YEAH.
SUOH, IT'S SNOW-ING.
IT'S OKAY.... ISN'T EVENING SNOW BEAU-TIFUL?
TODAY WE HELD THE FORTY-NINE DAYS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SAHOKO. THIS SNOW MUST BE HER WAY OF SAYING FAREWELL.
IT'S ALREADY MARCH. I WONDER IF THIS IS GONNA BE THE LAST SNOW.
EVEN IF IT IS, I THINK IT'LL VANISH SOON.

-MARCH SNOW-

SHE LOVED SNOW AND SHE DIED ON A SNOWY DAY ...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME FOR A MONTH AND A HALF NOW...WHY DID SAHOKO DIE?
TATSUYA
SUOH ...
THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD HAVE WANTED TO DIE...
AND OF COURSE SHE WASN'T AWARE OF HER BODY CHANGING EITHER...
SU-OH
IT'S LIKE SHE WISHED TO DIE.
BUT I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT WHY DID SHE GO TO SUCH A DESERTED PLACE ALONE IN THE SNOW...
AND IF SHE KNEW ABOUT THE CHANGES GOING ON IN HER BODY...
IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT. I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT IT SO MUCH ANY-MORE...

-JANUARY SNOW-
YOU'RE RIGHT... WHAT AM I SAYING?
SHE WAS SO HAPPY, EVEN WHEN I SAW HER FOR THE LAST TIME.


IT'S SO QUIET...
BEAUTIFUL SNOW.
AH
crunch

UHHH ..
WAA AHH ....
OH ...

SUOH
I'M... SORRY...
I'M SORRY
THE SNOW
LOOKS LIKE FLOWER PETALS
JUST LIKE WHEN WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME
OH, IF WE'D NEVER MET...

EXCUSE ME.
I WAS JUST GOING TO LOOK AT THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WHILE I WAS WAITING, BUT I GUESS I CAME TOO FAR.
OH GOOD COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE THE WAITING AREA IS? I THINK I'M LOST.
YES. I'M HELPING IN THE PREPARATION AREA.
ARE YOU HERE FOR THE TEA CEREMONY?

BUT MY DATE MUST BE UPSET.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN HAVE A SEAT AT THE NEXT CEREMONY.
EVERYONE MUST BE IN THEIR SEATS BY NOW. I'LL BE FROWNED UPON.
I'LL TRY THAT.
IF YOU BRING YOUR COMPANION HERE, HE OR SHE WILL UNDER-STAND
YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO YOUR DATE THAT THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS WERE TOO LOVELY
HM ..
..BLAME THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ?
I'LL.. SHOW YOU THE WAY.

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT YET.

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, AT THAT VERY MOMENT.

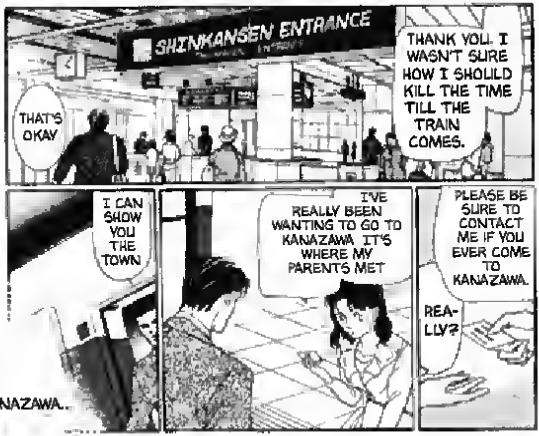
RIGHT THEN,

6
YOU DROPPED SOME-THING.
OH.. / YOU WERE AT THE TEA CERE-MONY...
OH, AND THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.
YOU SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE LOST IN THOUGHT AND DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU DROPPED IT.
HMM ?
OH.. THANK YOU.
ISN'T THIS YOURS ?
I HEARD THAT YOU COME TO THIS CRAFT SHOW EVERY DAY. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU LIKE HERE?
HUH?

I HEARD IT FROM THE GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE. IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT WE MET IN HERE TODAY.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT...? DO YOU WORK HERE?
IT'S PARTLY FOR MY STUDY, BUT THE REASON I COME HERE EVERY DAY IS JUST BECAUSE I LIKE IT.
WELL... THAT'S NOT ALL OF IT.
I SEE.
I MAJOR IN INDUSTRIAL HISTORY IN COLLEGE, THAT'S WHY...
NO WONDER.
I LIKE PRINTED SILK.
ESPECIALLY SUCH TAKAMURA'S WORK. I COME HERE EVERY DAY TO LOOK AT THIS WORK.

TAKA-MURA...? YOU MEAN YOU'RE...?
WHAT?
SURE.
MR. TAKAMURA I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU BUT...
PAR-DON ME.
EXCUSE ME, I'VE SAID TOO MUCH..
I FEEL HONORED THAT YOU LIKE MY WORK SO MUCH.
AND I WAS
JUST BECOMING AWARE THAT
"LOVE" ISN'T SOMETHING ONLY FOUND IN NOVELS OR SONGS.

MY MOTHER NAMED ME THAT BECAUSE I WAS BORN IN SPRING. I WONDER WHAT MY NAME WOULD BE IF I'D BEEN BORN IN AUTUMN
I THINK THAT WOULD BE TATSUKO.
I DON'T LIKE THAT ONE.
SAHOKO? THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GODDESS OF SPRING.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, TOO MUCH REALISM DOESN'T WORK EITHER
ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF KAGA PRINTED SILK IS THAT IT'S SO PICTURESQUE. IT DOESN'T WORK IF IT'S TOO ABSTRACTLY DESIGNED.
THANK YOU.
KOHEN'S PRINTED SILK IS ALSO WONDERFUL, BUT I PREFER YOUR THEMES AND YOUR USE OF COLORS.
YOU MEAN KOHEN TAKAMURA?
YES
SOMETIMES I REGRET THAT I'VE CHOSEN THE SAME PATH MY FATHER DID


SHINKANSEN ENTRANCE
THAT'S OKAY
THANK YOU. I WASN'T SURE HOW I SHOULD KILL THE TIME TILL THE TRAIN COMES.
I CAN SHOW YOU THE TOWN
KANAZAWA..
I'VE REALLY BEEN WANTING TO GO TO KANAZAWA. IT'S WHERE MY PARENTS MET
PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU EVER COME TO KANAZAWA.
REA-LLY?

THE PLACE I'VE BEEN YEARNING TO SEE FOR SO LONG,

SEEMED SO FAR AWAY BEFORE.

BUT NOW

I'M HERE IN THE SNOW.

THE SNOW IS COLD AND HURTS
SO MUCH.
SAH-OKO.
A MAN NAMED TAKAMURA PHONED YOU BEFORE NOON.
MR. TAKA-MURA ?
WHAT DID HE SAY, MOM?
IS HE A PRO-FESSOR AT YOUR SCHOOL ?
NO, YOU KNOW THE PRINTED SILK ARTIST WHO LIVES IN KANAZAWA, DON'T YOU?
I SHOW HIM AROUND TOKYO WHEN HE COMES FOR WORK, NOT OFTEN THOUGH...
BUT...
I HEARD THAT THE MR. TAKAMURA WHO MADE PRINTED SILK DIED FIVE YEARS AGO...

HE'S THE SON OF KOHEN TAKAMURA. SUOH TAKAMURA.
ISN'T HE...
MUCH OLDER THAN YOU?
YOUR MOTHER OWNS THE DRY-GOODS STORE?
MOM?
IT DOESN'T MAKE ME VERY HAPPY FOR YOU TO DATE SUCH A MAN.
MY MOTHER'S FAMILY OWNED THE DRY-GOODS STORE FOR A LONG TIME AND NOW SHE'S INHERITED IT.
NO WONDER YOU'RE USED TO WEARING A KIMONO
HE STAYED IN KANAZAWA ONLY A COUPLE YEARS BECAUSE HIS COMPANY TRANSFERRED HIM THERE.
OH... NO, HE ISN'T.
ISN'T YOUR FATHER FROM KANAZAWA?

MY FATHER GOT REMARRIED AND NOW HE LIVES IN BRUSSELS FOR HIS JOB.
BUT THEY DIVORCED WHEN I WAS FOUR.
IS THAT SO?
AND DURING THAT PERIOD, HE MET MY MOTHER, WHO WAS STUDYING SILK PRINTING. THAT'S WHY I YEARN FOR KANAZAWA.
EVEN IN KANA-ZAWA,
WHY?
IF THEY'D STAYED IN KANAZAWA FOREVER, THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE GOTTEN DIVORCED.
SOME PEOPLE STILL GET DIVORCED, LIKE ME.
THAT'S ODD LOGIC.
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT.
OH! I'M SORRY THAT ..
ha ha ha

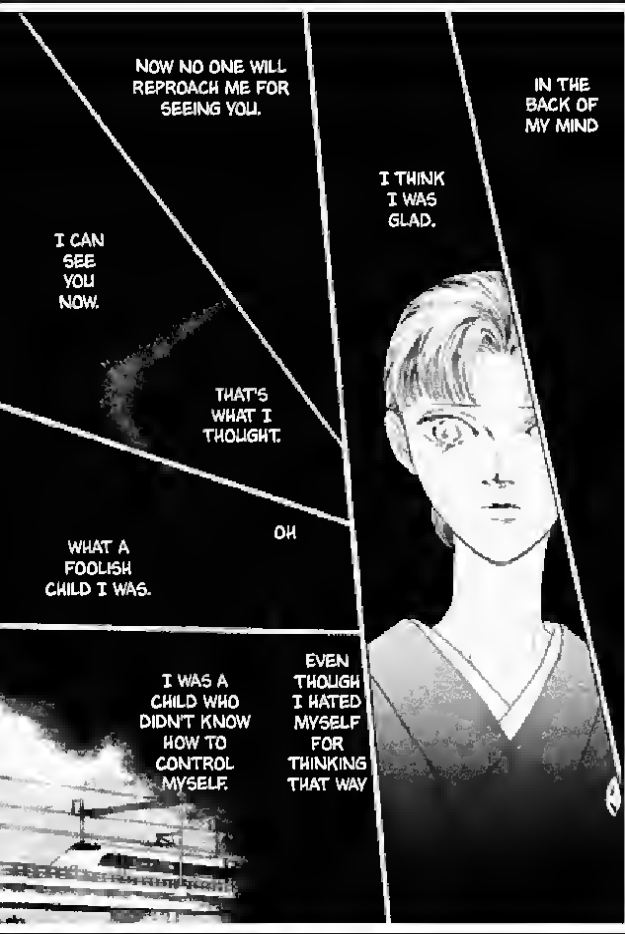
IF IT WERE ME
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DIVORCE YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.
A WONDERFUL MAN LIKE YOU...
THANK YOU FOR SAYING SO.
ALTHOUGH AREN'T I TOO OLD FOR YOU?
NO ...
DON'T WORRY.
I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL MARRIAGE.
THEN, I STARTED TO GET IRRITATED AND IMPATIENT
BECAUSE YOU AND MY MOTHER WERE STILL TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD.

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY JUST SEEING YOU, BUT...
MY EMOTIONS STARTED CHANGING SLOWLY
MOM
YOU CALLED MR TAKAMURA, DIDN'T YOU? WHY? WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM?
SAHO-KO.
I WANTED HIM TO STOP TAKING YOU OUT SO MUCH...
YOU'RE NOT EVEN TWENTY YET AND HE'S BEEN DIVORCED.
HE MUST'VE THOUGHT ...
THAT'S TERRIBLE. IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK ...

WHY...WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS?
YOU LOVE THAT MAN, DON'T YOU?
DON'T YOU?
whisper whisper
CLUNK!
GIVE ME THAT! IT'S MINE
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
YOU CAN'T
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHO I LOVE.
YOU CAN'T! NO!
SAYOKO NO.
PLEASE DON'T SEE HIM ANY-MORE.

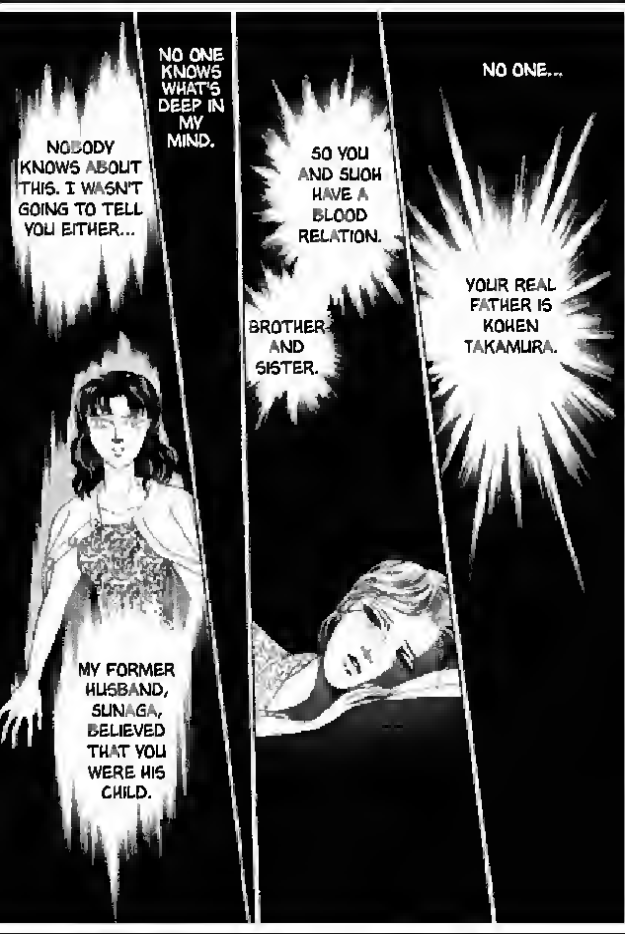
MOM?
URGH!
PLEASE ...
COUGH COUGH
MOM!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR MOM WAS PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD
THE CANCER IS SPREADING TOO FAST— WE'LL TRY OUR BEST, BUT...
SAHOKO ...
LISTEN TO ME.

WHEN MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY


NOW NO ONE WILL REPROACH ME FOR SEEING YOU.
I CAN SEE YOU NOW.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
OH
WHAT A FOOLISH CHILD I WAS.
I WAS A CHILD WHO DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO CONTROL MYSELF.
EVEN THOUGH I HATED MYSELF FOR THINKING THAT WAY
I THINK I WAS GLAD.
IN THE BACK OF MY MIND

MR. TAKAMURA
I'M SORRY I CAME TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS
SAHOKO
...SO BADLY ...
I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU
I'M GLAD YOU CAME.

ON THAT NIGHT...
DO YOU KNOW HOW HAPPY I WAS?
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE IT.
NO ONE CAN.


NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S DEEP IN MY MIND.
NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THIS. I WASN'T GOING TO TELL YOU EITHER...
MY FORMER HUSBAND, SUNAGA, BELIEVED THAT YOU WERE HIS CHILD.
NO ONE...
SO YOU AND SUOH HAVE A BLOOD RELATION.
BROTHER AND SISTER.
YOUR REAL FATHER IS KOHEN TAKAMURA.

I THOUGHT I HAD PAID FOR THAT MISTAKE OF MY YOUTH.
HE PROMISED ME THAT YOU COULD KEEP HIS NAME FOR YOUR SAKE.
BUT WHEN HE FOUND OUT YOUR BLOOD TYPE, HE REALIZED YOU WERE NOT HIS CHILD AND WE DIVORCED.
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT I'D GET THIS KIND OF RETRIBUTION?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SAHOKO.
FORGIVE ME.
SINCE THEN...
AFTER HEARING MY MOTHER'S CONFESSION...
I MAY HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND.

I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME.
MR. TAKA-MURA...
YOU'RE JUST GUILTY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
BECAU-SE IT WAS . MY FIRST TIME.
I'M 15 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU AND I'M A DIVOR-CEE. .
I CAN'T TELL YOU I'M PERFECT FOR YOU BUT...
NO.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I KNEW IT MYSELF I WAS DRAWN TO YOU FROM THE BEGIN-NING.

THE IMAGE I WAS SEEING THAT TIME..
A BRILLIANT IMAGE OF PRINTED SILK
KOHEN TAKAMURA'S... A KIMONO OF PRINTED SILK THAT MY FATHER HAD PAINTED
IT WAS PRINTED SILK WITH MANY OTHER FABRICS, WRAPPED UP AND KEPT AWAY IN THE DEPTHS OF THE CLOSET.
...AS IF MY MOTHER WAS AFRAID THAT SOMEONE WOULD SEE IT. THAT BRILLIANT COLOR MADE ME FIRMLY BELIEVE MY MOTHER'S WORDS...

BUT
BEING HELD IN YOUR ARMS
AWAKENED MY DISHONESTY.
MY MOTHER'S WORDS CAPTURE ME.
NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT THIS.
THE FACT IS I WASN'T GOING TO SEE YOU EVER AGAIN BUT...
...I WILL... MARRY YOU...
EVERYTHING HAD BECOME A PART OF MY DREAM.

HOW HAPPY I WAS IN KANAZAWA.
YOU KNOW WELL WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...
WOW! SNOW! IT'S SNOW.
NO ... NO!
YOU NEVER SAW THIS MUCH SNOW BEFORE?
IT'S LIKE I'M IN A DIFFERENT WORLD.
YES, NO WONDER IT'S SO COLD. IT'S A DEEP SNOW.
AMA-ZING...
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL. IT'S HIDDEN EVERY-THING AWAY.
LAST NIGHT THERE WASN'T A FLAKE.

IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN BE REBORN AGAIN...
"WHEN THE SNOW FALLS / MY SIN IS FOR-GIVEN"
FWSHHHH
WHAT'S THAT .. ?
IT'S SAISEI MUROO'S POETRY
EVERY TIME SNOW START'S TO FALL, I REMEMBER THAT POEM.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD STANZA?
... WHEN THE SNOW FALLS
YES.
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
MY SIN IS
NO.

YOU KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE PRETTY HARD TO SHOVEL ALL THIS SNOW. YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO SAY YOU'RE HAPPY.
I DON'T THINK SO
I'M... SO HAPPY ...
I CAN STAY WITH YOU LIKE THIS.
I'M JUST GLAD THAT ...
YOU'RE GOING TO GET COLD. WHY DON'T WE CLOSE THE WINDOW.
IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO WAKE UP.

SPRING FLOWERS
SUMMER WIND
EVERYTHING WAS BEAUTIFUL TO ME.
YOU WERE ASTONISHED AND LAUGHED AT ME AND SAID I GET TOO IMPRESSED BY EVERYTHING.
BUT I STILL COULDN'T DESCRIBE IT ENOUGH.
...I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WAS JUST A DREAM...

SAHOKO
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU LOOK SICK.
...I'M OKAY.
ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR LESSON ?
YES.
THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST. YOU'D BEST GO HOME NOW.
THANK YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHY I FEEL SICK THESE DAYS.
OH
COULD YOU BE...
PREG-NANT ?
YES, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THAT, EH?
I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO A GOOD DOCTOR FOR A CHECK UP.

SUDDENLY
THE DREAM IS OVER
I REALIZE MY SIN.
OH, IT'S START-ING TO SNOW.

SAY HELLO TO MR. TAKAMURA FOR ME.
TEA CEREMONY SCHOOL
I'LL BE FINE. I'M JUST GOING A LITTLE WAY.
YOU SHOULD USE MY UMBRELLA.
BE CAREFUL.
THIS IS NOT THE KIND OF THING TO BE FORGIVEN, THOUGH.
NO
I WAS JUST TRYING NOT TO THINK.
I DECIDED NOT TO NOTICE ON PURPOSE.
WHY DIDN'T I THINK ABOUT IT UNTIL NOW?

I WONDER HOW LONG I WALKED IN THE SNOW...

THEN--

TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING...
BUT MIND WAS EMPTY AND I JUST KEPT WALKING.

THIS MUST BE PUNISH-MENT FOR MY PAST BEHAVIOR.
MY SIN...
WAS THAT I TOLD YOU NOTHING.
AND NOW I HAVE RUINED A NEW LIFE.
I RESENTED MY MOTHER AND I WAS FOOLING MYSELF
...I CAN'T MAKE UP FOR THIS.

OH SUCH
IF I WERE AN ADULT WITH MORE SENSE
PERHAPS I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE SUCH A FOOLISH THING...
BUT
I JUST COULDN'T SAY GOODBYE TO YOU.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING NOW

NEITHER COLD NOR

PAIN

SUCH

TO DIE LIKE THIS, WITHOUT TELLING YOU OR ANYONE

IT'S THE LAST THING I CAN...

SAHOKO WAS HIDING SOME-THING IN HER MIND.

AND IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY WASN'T I ABLE TO NOTICE THAT IN HER? . WE WERE TOGETHER NEARLY THREE YEARS, YOU KNOW
I THINK THAT'S MY SIN.
WHAT WAS SHE HIDING? SHE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SOMEONE WHO WOULD DO THAT.
MY GUT TELLS ME IT'S SO.
NO. NOTHING.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING LEFT IN HER PERSONAL EFFECTS? LIKE A DIARY OR LETTER OR SOMETHING..
WHY DON'T YOU INVESTIGATE? YOU MIGHT AS WELL. EVERYTHING ABOUT HER, FROM THE TIME SHE WAS LIVING IN TOKYO
IF YOU CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
NOTHING

YOU'LL BE SICK IF YOU KEEP THIS UP.
YOU MAY FIND SOMETHING. AT LEAST YOU'D FEEL A LITTLE BETTER, EVEN IF YOU DON'T FIND OUT A THING.
I KNOW A MAN WHO'S A PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATOR. I CAN ASK HIM...
NO ...
I WAS HAPPY TO BE WITH HER.
I BELIEVE SHE WAS TOO. THAT'S ENOUGH.
SHE PASSED AWAY WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, SO THERE'S NOTHING I NEED TO KNOW ANYMORE.
click
THAT'S OKAY I'D BETTER NOT.
SAHOKO WON'T BE BACK NO MATTER WHAT I DO.

EVEN THOUGH ...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP THINKING ABOUT HER EVERY TIME I SEE SNOW.

I CAN MAKE BELIEVE IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM...
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT IF I JUST KEEP SLEEPING...

SLEEPING FLOWER

THIS IS THE PHOTO OF HIM.
TAKE A LOOK
...I SEE ...

YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, SAKIKA?
...I KNOW.
I'LL DO IT AS USUAL.
KAMAKURA ? ME TOO?
HE'S GOING TO STAY AT THE HOUSE IN KAMAKURA WHEN HE COMES BACK TO JAPAN. YOU MUST STAY THERE THE WHOLE TIME.

HE'S THE ONLY GRANDSON OF HONJO. HIS MOTHER RAN AWAY WITH HER LOVER, AND SHE'S LOST ANY CONNECTION WITH HER FAMILY BUT HE'S STILL HONJO'S CLOSEST RELATIVE.
OF COURSE. YOU HAVE TO WATCH HIM FOR ME.
VI CAN'T STAY AT THAT HOUSE.
OH... IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF HE STARTS TO ASSE HIS RIGHTS JUST BECAUSE HE FOUN OUT HIS MOTHER'S FAMILY IS WEALTHY
ANYWAY, HE MUST BE OUT OF HIS MIND TO CALL HOME A GRAND-SON WHO'S NEVER EVEN SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE. I DON'T THINK HE'LL LAST LONG
WITH HONJO ILL, BOTH THE HONJO FAMILY AND THE BUSINESS WILL BE UNDER OUR CONTROL BECAUSE, AFTER ALL WE'RE ALSO RELATIVES.

PLEASE LEAVE MY BAGGAGE IN THE ENTRANCE HALL,
I CAN BRING IT IN MY-SELF!
SURE.
UNTIL HE COMES
I CAN SPEND MY TIME ALONE IN HERE.

CREAK
HELLO, YOU MUST BE...
HEY! WAIT!

THE STUDY THAT NO ONE USED,
THAT WAS MY PLACE.
THAT PLACE WAS ONLY FOR ME, A PLACE NO ONE ELSE EVER WENT TO...
SAKIKA
ANYWAY, GLAD TO SEE YOU. TSUKASA ALSO ARRIVED UNEXPECTEDLY TODAY. HE SAID HE GOT HERE EARLY TOO.
THAT'S OKAY IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT LETTING YOU KNOW I WAS COMING EARLIER.
OH MY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING TODAY. I'M SORRY, I WAS OUT FOR A WHILE.
MAT-SUE ...
I WAS THINKING OF CALLING YOUR HOUSE IN TOKYO ABOUT HIM.
TSUKASA... OH, THAT MUST BE TSUKASA KUREBAYASHI
YOU HAVE TO WATCH HIM FOR ME.
HE'S THE ONE EIICHI WAS TALKING ABOUT...

KNOCK KNOCK
NICE TO MEET YOU
MY NAME IS SAKIKA HONJO. I'M SORRY I SHOULD'VE COME EARLIER TO GREET YOU.
YOU MUST BE TSUKASA. MY FATHER TOLD ME TO MEET YOU HERE.
OH, HI.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN JAPAN FOR A LONG TIME, SO I CAN BE YOUR GUIDE IF YOU WANT TO GO ANYWHERE.
OH ...
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU.
HUH ?

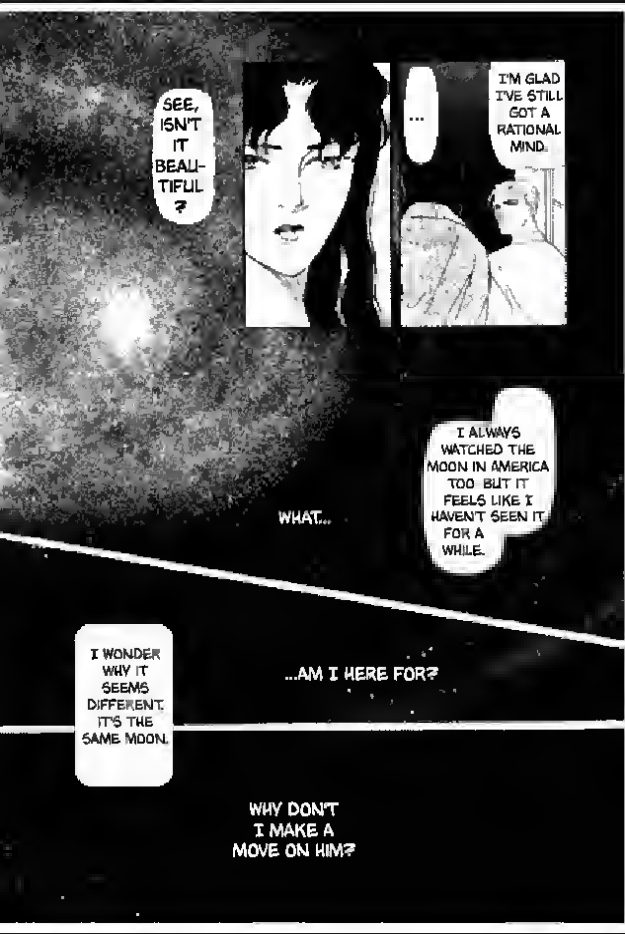
THAT WAS YOU WHO CAME INTO THE STUDY WHEN I WAS IN THERE, RIGHT?
REALLY? THEN YOU DO EXCAVATIONS TOO?
...I WORK IN AN ARCHE-OLOGY LAB.
WHAT DO YOU DO IN AMERICA?
ANYWAY, I'M SORRY IF I SURPRISED YOU ...
YEAH. RIGHT NOW WE'RE PLANNING AN EXCAVATION IN SOUTH AMERICA BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF A BUDGET TO GO AHEAD YET.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I HAVE A SECRET REASON WHY I CAME TO SEE MY GRANDFATHER.
HE TOLD ME THAT IF I'D VISIT HIM, HE'D GIVE ME MY SHARE OF HIS WEALTH.

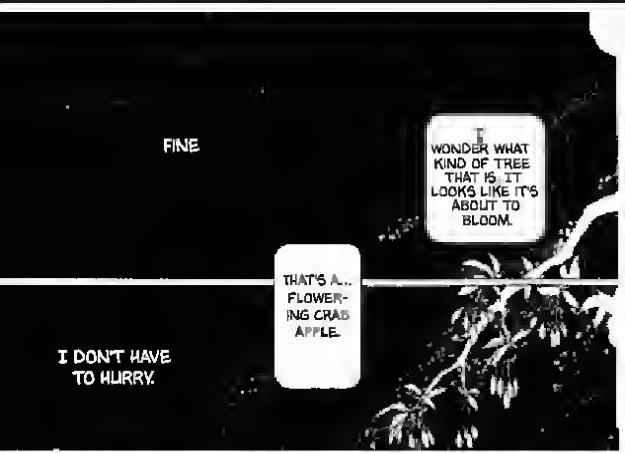
I WISH MY PARENTS WERE STILL ALIVE. THAT WOULD'VE MADE IT EASIER FOR ME TO MEET HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME.
ANYWAY, HE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
YOU SAID ...
EHICHI? ... OH, HE'S A SECOND COUSIN TO ME, AM I RIGHT?
I'M THE DAUGHTER OF EHICHI HONJO.
YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE HONJO FAMILY BUT WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ME AND YOU?
HE ADOPTED ME.
I THINK HE'S OLDER THAN ME BUT IS HE OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE A GROWN DAUGHTER LIKE YOU?

AND WHEN MY PARENTS DIED, HE ADOPTED ME BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES TO DEPEND ON.
I'VE HEARD THAT MY REAL FATHER WAS AN OLDER FRIEND OF HONJO
KLINK
THANK YOU.
FATHER TOLD ME TO ENTERTAIN YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE TELL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
DID I BRING BACK A BAD MEMORY?
NO, I DON'T MIND.

knock knock
EXCUSE ME.
TSUKASA ?
KA-CHIK
SAK-IKA?
I THOUGHT HE CAME BACK TO HIS BED-ROOM A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
...HE'S NOT HERE...

I WAS WATCHING THE MOON.
THE MOON ?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL COME TO THE BALCONY, YOU SHOULD SEE IT TOO.
I THOUGHT I'D ASK YOU IF YOU WANTED A DRINK BEFORE YOU WENT TO BED .. WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU'LL BE COLD WITH JUST THAT ON
PLUS YOU SHOULDN'T WALK IN SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE WAY. I HAVE THOSE PRIMITIVE MALE URGES, YOU KNOW.


SEE, ISN'T IT BEAU-TIFUL ?
...
I'M GLAD I'VE STILL GOT A RATIONAL MIND.
I ALWAYS WATCHED THE MOON IN AMERICA TOO BUT IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T SEEN IT FOR A WHILE.
WHAT...
I WONDER WHY IT SEEMS DIFFERENT. IT'S THE SAME MOON.
...AM I HERE FOR?
WHY DON'T I MAKE A MOVE ON HIM?


FINE
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF TREE THAT IS. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BLOOM.
THAT'S A... FLOWER-ING CRAB APPLE.
I DON'T HAVE TO HURRY.

I HEARD THAT THE THING HONJO WAS GOING TO LEAVE TSUKASA WASN'T MONEY BUT STOCK FROM THE HONJO GROUP.
THEN LET'S BUY ALL THE STOCK NOW.

THIS BUSINESS IS A SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP WHICH, TRADITIONALLY, IS ALWAYS RUN BY THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
SOME OF THE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO HONJO MIGHT TRY TO BRING TSUKASA FORWARD, YOU KNOW
DON'T MOVE RASHLY. HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR WAY OF DOING THINGS. AS A MATTER OF A FACT, HE WANTS TO GET US OUT OF THE COMPANY
BUT WE DO HAVE SOME CLOUT ....
MOST OF ALL, HONJO WANTS TO DO SO.
IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNORTHODOX.
AND IT'S NOT GOOD TIMING EITHER.
THAT INVEST-MENT...
...MIGHT BE A FAILURE.
I KNOW.
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LEAVING TSUKASA ALONE UNTIL I SEE WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE HE HAS.

YOU MUST BE TSUKASA. I'M EHICHI HONJO.
NICE TO MEET YOU. SAKIKA'S BEEN VERY KIND TO ME.
GLAD TO SEE YOU.
SHE'S GOOD COMPANY THEN?
YES, SHE EVEN TOOK ME TO KAMAKURA CITY YESTERDAY.
SHE'S A REALLY BRIGHT WOMAN. MUSIC, PAINTING, LITERATURE. SHE LIKES EVERYTHING AND IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE.
SHE NEVER BORES ME.
SHE'S TRAINED IN MOST OF THE POPULAR DOMESTIC ARTS, TOO.
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF A MAN WHO WAS VERY KIND TO ME, SO IT ONLY MADE SENSE TO RAISE HER.

BY THE WAY
I KNOW YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, BUT YOUR GRANDFATHER IS UNCONSCIOUS RIGHT NOW
IS HE IN SERIOUS CONDITION?
HE'S BEEN BACK IN A COMA AGAIN THESE PAST FEW DAYS AND THE DOCTOR SAID HE CAN'T BE SURE IF...
I HOPE SOMEHOW HE'LL PULL THROUGH AGAIN. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM AT LEAST ONCE.
I HOPE SO.
I THINK HE'LL RECOVER IF HE'S AWARE THAT YOU'RE HERE. HE WAS BEING STUBBORN BUT HE REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF COMING BACK TO JAPAN AND BECOMING PRESIDENT OF OUR COMPANY?
DEEP DOWN, YOUR GRANDFATHER WANTS YOU TO SUCCEED AS HEAD OF THE BUSINESS.

I MEAN, I'M JUST AN ACADEMIC FREAK. I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING, IT'S WAY TOO COMPLICATED.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME PAYING OFF MY CAR LOAN AND I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT BUYING A BRAND NEW ONE.
I WON'T DENY THAT I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS TEMPTED BY MY GRAND FATHER'S PROMISE.
BUT OF COURSE I CAN BE GREEDY TOO...
I WON'T ASK HIM FOR TOO MUCH BUT I WONDER IF I CAN GET SOMETHING CLOSE TO THAT AMOUNT
PLEASE PROMISE ME YOU'LL JUST QUIETLY LOOK IN ON HIM, NOTHING ELSE.
GOOD IDEA.
ALL RIGHT, FOR NOW I'LL JUST GO SEE HOW HE IS AND SAY NOTHING.

KNOCK KNOCK
DON'T GO AWAY
OH NO...
OH, NO. HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
PLEASE WAIT
DID I SCARE YOU?
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU BUT CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?
SU SURE.
I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME LIKE THIS.

HMMM.
ONE DAY, I FELL SLEEP UNDER MY FATHER'S DESK WHILE READING AND IT STARTED A BIG FUSS BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T FIND ME ANYWHERE.
THEY EVEN CALLED THE POLICE.
AH.
I USED TO SNEAK IN THERE WHEN MY FATHER WASN'T HOME AND SECRETLY READ BOOKS THAT IS...IF I FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING TO READ
MAYBE BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF MY FATHER'S STUDY
THIS ROOM IS VERY NICE. SOMEHOW, IT'S VERY RELAXING.
YOU FOUND MY SECRET TOO.
AFTER MY FATHER SCOLDED ME, HE SAID I COULD USE HIS STUDY, BUT AFTER THAT IT WASN'T A SECRET PLEASURE ANYMORE.
EHICHI . I MEAN, MY FATHER AND OTHER PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE THIS HOUSE. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS OLD AND GLOOMY, BUT I LIKE IT.
I STAYED IN THIS HOUSE FOR A WHILE AFTER HONJO ADOPTED ME.
ESPECIALLY THIS ROOM...IT WAS EASY TO FORGET BAD THINGS WHEN I WAS ALONE IN THIS ROOM.
IT'S OKAY TO HAVE A COMPANION IN THE SECRET GARDEN, YOU KNOW.

WAS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO FORGET AFTER COMING TO THIS HOUSE?
...N-NO
THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY NICE TO ME.

OH!
OH... I'M SORRY, WITHOUT ASKING...
THAT'S OKAY
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
EXCUSE ME.
CLICK
OH...BUT, NOT IN THERE.
WASN'T THAT MY CHANCE?

TRY TO CATCH HIM OFF GUARD. FIGURE OUT HIS THOUGHTS.
MAKE A MOVE ON HIM LIKE ALWAYS.
DEEP IN HIS HEART.
WHAT AN EXCELLENT GIFT EHICHI IS GIVING ME.
IT'S MY PLEASURE TO SPEND TIME WITH A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN LIKE YOU.
I'D LOVE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU.
TALKING ABOUT MYSELF IS BORING
NO.
DON'T.
DIDN'T I DECIDE NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT?
BECAUSE IT WAS ALL JUST A DREAM.
I DON'T HAVE TO FEEL ANYTHING.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS ALL A DREAM.
TSU-KASA.
YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTI-FUL.
I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING. LET'S GO
LISTEN, MAJOR PLAYERS FROM OUR COMPANY AND A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM COMPANIES THAT WE HAVE BUSINESS CONNECTIONS WITH ARE ALL AT THIS PARTY TONIGHT.
BRING TSUKASA OVER
AND WATCH WHOEVER APPROACHES HIM.

AREN'T YOU SAKIKA ?
IT'S ME, KURODA. REMEMBER ME?
OF COURSE. I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU REMEMBERED ME.
HOW COULD I FORGET? IT WAS A WONDERFUL NIGHT.
SOMETIMES I EVEN DREAM ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER... NO, MORE THAN EVER.
MAYBE YOU CAN VISIT MY COUNTRY HOUSE SOME TIME, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THANK YOU.
SLAP!
WILL YOU ?
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T ASK ME AT THE PARTY LIKE THIS, YOU SPOIL THE FUN.
I HAVE COMPANY, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

TSU-KASA ?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU DISAP-PEARED SO SUDDENLY
I THINK I HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
OH NO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
I'M GOING TO THE REST-ROOM
I'LL GO WITH YOU .
THAT'S OK, I'M FINE BY MYSELF.
I'M SO SORRY
GOO . GOOD TIMING COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE A MEN'S ROOM IS?
SA-KIKA.

I HAVE NOTHING SPECIAL TO REPORT TO YOU.
DID YOU SLEEP WITH HIM?
NO ...
WHAT'S WRONG? TRAP HIM WITH YOUR BEAUTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR OUR FUTURE.
AFTER ONLY A SINGLE EXPERIENCE, NO ONE CAN FORGET YOUR BODY.

DON'T YOU ...
HAVE A CRUSH ON TSUKASA ?
...NO WAY
EXCUSE ME, MR. HONJO.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ...CAN WE GO TO YOUR OFFICE ?
WHAT'S HAPPENED ?
I THINK WE'RE IN A FIX.

FINALLY HERE, HUH?
WE'VE OBTAINED THOSE DOCUMENTS. THEY PROVE THAT EHICHI HONJO'S FACTION IS CORRUPT.
THEIR ILLICIT BANK DEALINGS ARE ALSO GOING TO BE EXPOSED. OUR COMPANY WASN'T THE ONLY ONE THEY SCAMMED.
WE FOUND ALL THIS BECAUSE YOU SUGGESTED WE INVESTIGATE.
THE CORPORATE MAKEOVER WE'VE GOT IN MIND CAN'T HAPPEN UNTIL WE SQUEEZE ALL THE PUS OUT OF THE INSIDES OF THE COMPANY, RIGHT?
I LIED WHEN I SAID I'D NEVER MET MY GRANDFATHER BEFORE.
HOW DID YOU KNOW SOMETHING WAS GOING ON...?
HE ALSO SUPPORTED MY RESEARCH.
WHEN MY MOTHER DIED, HE SECRETLY CAME ALL THE WAY TO THE U.S. TO SEE ME, AND NO ONE KNEW ABOUT IT.
DEEP DOWN, I THINK HE WANTED ME ON HIS SIDE. HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THE COMPANY AND THE FAMILY.
HE LEFT ME ALONE TO DO WHAT I WANTED TO DO.

ANOTHER THING, KUREHAYASHI EHICHI SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH GANGS.
SO YOU BETTER WATCH IT.
THEN HE GOT SICK RIGHT AFTER HE CAME TO SEE ME AND I FELT GUILTY ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT I SHOULD BECOME A "DUTIFUL GRAND-SON."
ONE LAST THING...IT'S ABOUT SAKIKA HONJO...
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS CASE, BUT...
SHE IS...
I'M INTERESTED IN HER IN A MORE PERSONAL WAY.

MUCH BETTER.
HOW'RE YOU NOW, TSUKASA?
TSU-KASA.
WE'RE BACK AT HOME NOW, SO JUST RELAX. I BROUGHT YOU SOME WATER.

GRASP

I DON'T WANT YOU TO DO THIS BECAUSE EHICHI SAID SO.
BUT ...
NO, I'M ATTRACTED TO YOU.
...YOU DON'T LIKE ME?
OR IS IT BECAUSE HE TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING, INCLUDING YOUR MOTHER'S MEDICAL COSTS BEFORE SHE DIED
YOU STAY WITH HIM BECAUSE HE TOOK OVER YOUR FAMILY'S DEBTS, RIGHT?
....WHO TOLD YOU THAT...?

I'M HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO BE. NO OTHER REASON.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS.
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE THINGS HE FORCES YOU TO DO?
YOU CAN CHOOSE SO MANY OTHER WAYS. THE WAY THAT YOU REALLY WANT TO LIVE.
HE MAY HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANTED, BUT WHAT'RE YOU REALLY HOPING FOR?
...THE THINGS HE... FORCES ME TO DO...?
WHEN YOU SPEND TIME IN THE STUDY ...
DOES HE KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

STO
//
HE KNOWS, DOESN'T HE?
LEAVE ME ALONE //
SA-KIKA...
WHY DID I RUN AWAY?

SOME-
THING'S
WRONG
WITH
ME.
I
SHOULDN'T
CARE ANY
MORE
THAN
USUAL.
DON'T
MAKE ME
REALIZE...
DON'T
WAKE
ME UP...
WHY DO
I FEEL
SO
SAD?
JUST
BECAUSE
HE
KNOWS?
PLEASE
TSU-
KASA.

THE HOSPITAL ?
THE HOSPITAL JUST CALLED.
THEY SAID MR. KONJO'S CONDITION TOOK A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, SO PLEASE...
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY YET.
DON'T TELL ANYONE UNTIL I SAY SO.
HOW ABOUT SAKIKA ?
ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING THERE RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S ALREADY IN BED YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL HER YET

KA-CHIK
HUH?
...WHO'S THERE?
THUMP!
AH/ . .
...EHICHI...? WHEN, DID YOU GET HERE...?
SAKIKA ...

YOU KNEW ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
KNEW ABOUT WHAT ...?
THE STOLEN DOCU-MENTS...
TSUKASA MADE THEM DO IT. I GUESS HE CAUGHT US OFF GUARD AND NOW HE'S WAY AHEAD OF US.
YOU'RE BETRAYING ME, AREN'T YOU?
NO ..I DID-N'T KNOW.
NO...

WHY? IS IT BECAUSE OF HIM?
SAK-IKA.
STOP IT- PLEASE.
I'M GOING TO END THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO DO EXACTLY AS I SAY, SAKIKA.
WHAT...
WE'RE LIKE TWO PEAS IN A POD AFTER ALL.
WHAT I'M HOPING IS...

SAK-IKA.
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT BECAUSE I WENT TO SLEEP EARLY LAST NIGHT...
MR. HONJO'S CONDITION GOT WORSE LAST NIGHT AND TSUKASA WENT TO THE HOSPITAL BUT HE JUST CALLED ME TO SAY HE'LL BE BACK SOON.
I SEE ...
SURE.
LET ME KNOW WHEN HE'S BACK.
THE POLICE UNCOVERED THE STORY THAT THE COMPANY WAS GETTING ILLICIT FUNDING FROM THE TOHTO BANK. TANAKA, CHIEF OF THE AOYAMA BRANCH OFFICE OF TOHTO BANK, IS ...
CLICK!

GLAD TO SEE THESE FLOWERS AT THE END
THE FLOWERS... ARE STARTING TO BLOOM.
BECAUSE THEY'RE MY FAVORITE...
I SEE ...
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
GRAND FATHER'S CONDITION HAS IMPROVED.
SAK-IKA.

knock knock!
SAKIKA
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
MAY I COME IN?
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT WHAT EHICHI'S BEEN UP TO DON'T YOU?
KLINK!
...AND ALSO ABOUT ME.

YES. I WAS INVESTIGATING EHICHI'S FACTION WITH MY GRANDFATHER'S LAWYER.
THEY TRIED SOME DISHONEST BUSINESS BECAUSE THEY MADE A LOT OF BAD INVESTMENTS WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY.
I JUST .
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF. YOU'RE JUST...
LOOK, SAKIKA, THIS MAN WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU FROM NOW ON. YOU'RE VERY FORTUNATE.
THE SHOCK OF HIS DEATH MADE MY MOTHER ILL. WE WERE IN DEBT, SO NO RELATIVES WANTED TO HELP US.
I WAS JUST A HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN WHEN MY FATHER DIED.
I KNOW I PROBABLY COULD'VE CHOSEN A DIFFERENT LIFE...

BUT I WENT WITH EHICHI BECAUSE THEY TOLD ME TO.
DO YOU LOVE EHICHI ?
NO...I WANTED TO THINK THAT I DID...
BUT I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM.
HE DOESN'T LOVE ME EITHER. HE HAS A WIFE, AND OTHER GIRLS.
I JUST DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING AS LONG AS I STAYED WITH HIM. THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO GIVE MY MOTHER THE BEST I COULD.
BECAUSE THAT'S HOW I LIVED.
I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING, WHETHER I SLEPT WITH HIM OR ANY OTHER GUY.

I WAS TRYING NOT TO FEEL ANY-THING.
IF.. HE DID WICKED AND DIS-HONEST THINGS, WHAT ABOUT ME, WHO LIVE WITH HIM BECAUSE OF HIS..
MONEY..
SAK-IKA.
I...
YOU
TOLD ME TO CHOOSE FOR MYSELF
I LOVE YOU.

BELIEVE ME.
BELIEVE IN ME JUST FOR NOW.

knock knock
PLEASE WAKE UP.
EXCUSE ME, TSUKASA.
MR. TAKAHASHI IS HERE FROM THE OFFICE...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT. HE WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S LATE.
IT'S AN EMER-GENCY, MR KURE-BAYASHI.
KAWAMURA HAS BEEN ATTACKED.
TAKA-HASHI.
HE WAS ATTACKED BY THE INAMURA GANG.

WHO CARES ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS? DID THEY CATCH THE MAN WHO DID IT?
THERE WAS A WITNESS, SO I THINK THE POLICE WILL MAKE AN ARREST SOON...
HE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED BUT HE WON'T DIE. BUT THE DOCUMENTS THAT WERE GOING TO BE OUR EVIDENCE...
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
COULD YOU CALL THE LAWYER, MR. NAKAI?
I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY.

Ka-klank
UGH ...
G-G-CREAK
SAK-IKA .

WHAT'S WRO-
SAK-IKA.
WHAT DID YOU DRINK?
NOTHING...
PLEASE ... STAY...

NO ...
DRINK THIS WATER, HURRY!
WHSSHH
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
SLAP!
NO...NO, PLEASE ...

R-R-RETCH!
VOMIT
C'MON..
KEEP DOING IT.
NOBODY SAID TO CHOOSE THIS WAY. TO CHOOSE SUCH A STUPID WAY...

DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT'VE YOU DONE?
EHICHI... TOLD ME... TO PUT IT INTO YOUR... DRINK...
I... COULDN'T ... BETRAY HIM...NOW..
IF I DID...I THOUGHT...I'D HAVE NO RIGHT... TO...LOVE YOU... TOO...

SAKIKA...
PLEASE...
LET ME SLEEP, AS I AM...

EHICHI HONJO AND SEVERAL OF HIS PEOPLE WERE TAKEN TO THE POLICE A LITTLE WHILE AGO...
I GUESS IT'S SETTLED FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT IT'LL TAKE A WHILE BEFORE IT'S COMPLETELY PASSED
SO MANY SCANDALS CAME OUT, WHAT WITH THE GANGS ...
.. THE ILLEGAL FUNDING.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET TOMORROW
THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING, RIGHT?
WELL, LET'S DO THE BEST WE CAN.
MR. KUREBAYASHI, I GOT THE FLOWERS. WILL THIS DO?
OH, THANK YOU!
VERY NICE!

YEAH, I'M GOING TO VISIT SLEEPING BEAUTY
ARE YOU GOING TO VISIT SOME-ONE?
IT'S MORE FUN TO WAIT FOR THE PRINCESS THAN FOR MY GRAND-FATHER.
IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO WAKE UP..

WHEN I WOKE UP

IT WAS LIKE I WAS STILL IN A DREAM

BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE

...TSU-
KASA
..?

PLEASE WAKE UP AND LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY.
YES ...
LAST NIGHT, YOU SPIT OUT EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAD BURIED IN YOUR MIND.
SO, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT IN THERE, OKAY?
YES. YOU'RE RIGHT
THEN PUT THE WORDS INTO YOUR MIND THAT I NEVER GOT TO TELL YOU LAST NIGHT
I LOVE YOU.

TELL ME ONE MORE TIME.

I'LL BE REALLY AWAKE THIS TIME.

SLEEPING FLOWER / THE END